Ann Arbor Observer

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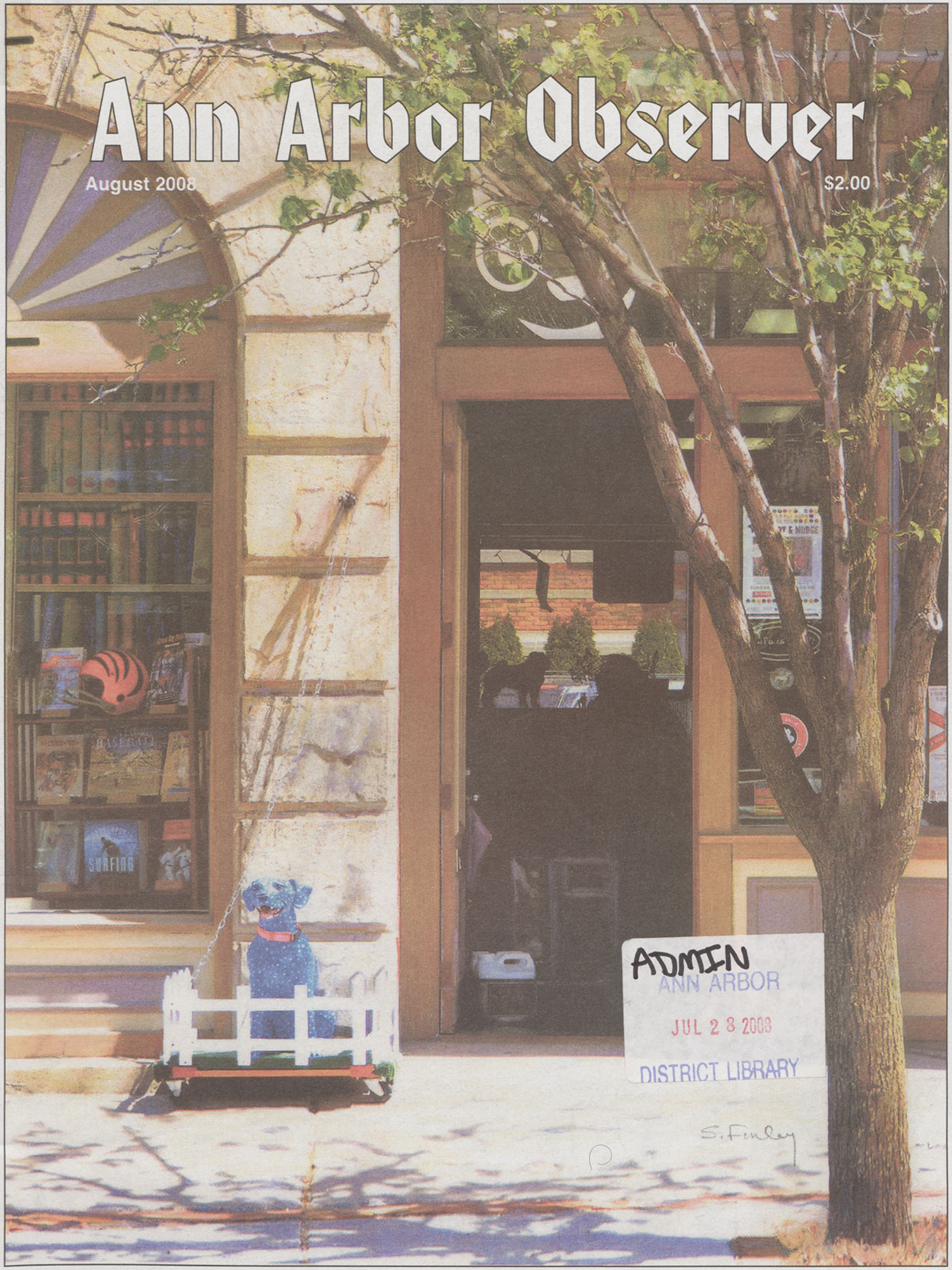

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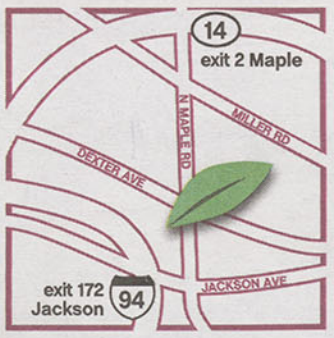

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The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192–5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in August (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104–1484. Telephone: (734) 769–3175. USPS #454–470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

Subscriptions: $20 for one year, $35 for two years. Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104–1484. Telephone (734) 769–3175. Fax (734) 769–3375. Email: subscribe@aaobserver.com

Manuscripts: The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104–1484. Email: editor@arborweb.com

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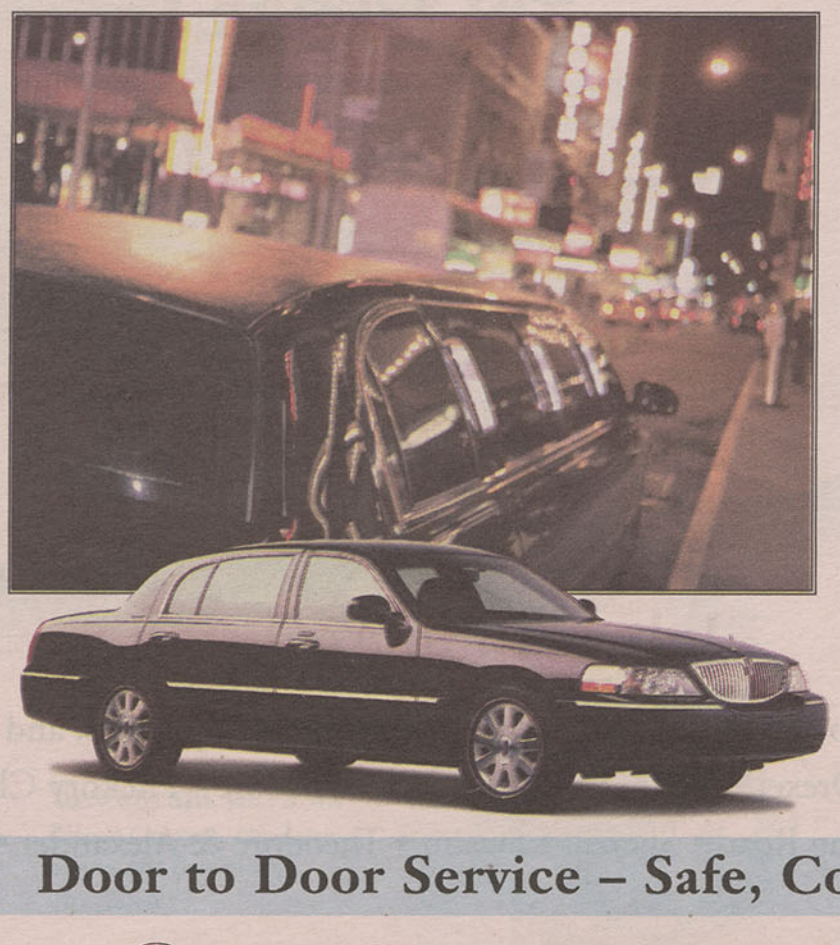

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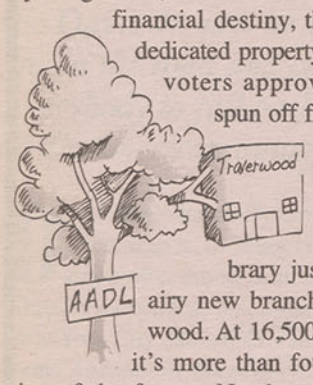
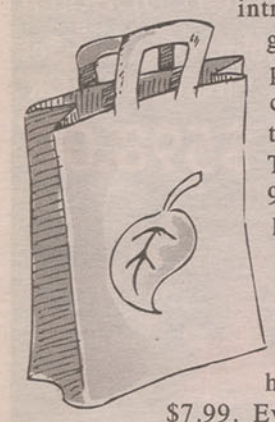
Branching out: "We are so lucky," says Ann Arbor District Library director Josie Parker. While cash-strapped librarians in other parts of the state are besieged by budget cuts, the AADL controls its own financial destiny, thanks to the dedicated property tax millage voters approved when it spun off from the public schools in 1996. Far from cutting back, the library just opened an airy new branch on Traverwood. At 16,500 square feet, it's more than four times the size of the former Northeast Branch in Plymouth Mall. In its first two weeks, patrons checked out 40,000 books—almost as many as the old location circulated in a month. Reflecting the north side's diverse population, the Traverwood Branch is well stocked with foreign-language materials.



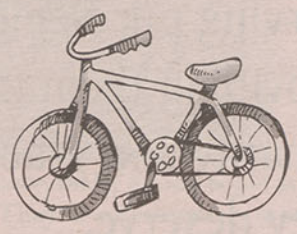
Traverwood follows the debuts of equally svelte branches at Malletts Creek and Pittsfield. Only the West Branch remains in leased space, in Westgate shopping center. AADL is looking for land on the northwest side, but for the moment it's concentrating more on either expanding or replacing the downtown facility—still the "main" library in many users' eyes.

Bag it: "We're the last ones on the bandwagon," says Lynda Stahl, owner of Fresh Seasons Market. In early July, Stahl was just finishing an order for the latest must-have item for environmentally conscious consumers: reusable shopping bags. The People's Food Co-op has long sold heavy-duty fabric bags for $13.99. But sales really took off in April, when the co-op introduced earth-green bags imprinted with its cheery face-in-the-moon logo. They cost just 99¢—and PFC has already sold 5,000 of them. Whole Foods also offers both a 99¢ bag and a heavier tote for $7.99. Even traditional chains like Kroger and Meijer sell reusables, although at the big Kroger on Maple Road you may have to ask for them—they're inconspicuously placed.



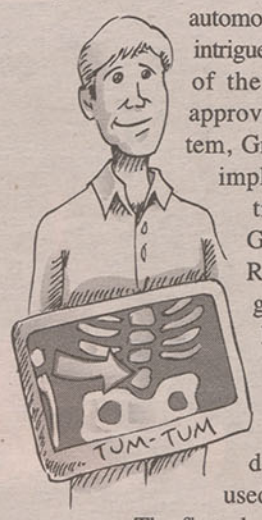
According to a reporter for a supermarket trade magazine, all the 99¢ bags appear to come from China. This has caused some hand-wringing among environmentalists, he says, since the bags obviously don't come here by bike. PFC's Kevin Sharp confirms that the store's bargain bags are Chinese. While he's not happy about that, he says even a well-traveled reusable still beats the waste of disposable paper and plastic bags.

Pedal power: "The gas being higher like this is a blessing in disguise," says Naomi Loy, who with her husband, Bill, has been selling bikes since the 1960s. "Not many people are buying new bikes these days," Naomi explains, but the business at their Campus Student Bike Shops is mostly repairs—and they've seen more customers bringing in neglected machines they've started riding again. Just before the Fourth of July weekend, a man from Chelsea pulled his SUV into the loading zone outside the Maynard Street store (the Loys also have one on Forest) and hauled out a pair of old Raleigh ten-speeds. "Oooh, classics!" exclaimed longtime repair guy Bob Siegert. "Nineteen seventy-eights?" "That's exactly right!" the man confirmed. The bill for a rush cleaning and repair, plus a few replacement parts, came to $250.



Used-bike sales are up, too—but not as much as you'd think, considering that the Loys' is the only business downtown that sells them. Bill says it's hard to compete with homeless people who steal bikes and then "sell them in the Diag for ten bucks." Naomi says that's why she never buys a used machine without first checking the serial number against the police department's list of stolen bikes.

Ready, aim: When Steve Greene's doctor said he could treat Greene's early-stage prostate cancer with a new radiation technology nicknamed "GPS for the body," the automotive engineer was intrigued. In a U-M study of the recently FDA-approved Calypso System, Greene's urologist implanted seed-sized transponders in Greene's prostate. Radiation oncologist Howard Sandler then used the transponders as landmarks for focusing the radiation beam he used to zap the cancer. The first physician in the area to use the Calypso System, Sandler says the technology allows him to aim the radiation beam within "one millimeter of confidence." That reduces the risk of damage to the nerves surrounding the prostate, which can cause incontinence and erectile dysfunction.



Independent living: After renting office space for twenty-eight years, the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living bought its own building last August. It needed more room to serve a growing number of disabled clients, its old space in Georgetown Mall was falling apart, and the former factory in Research Park looked like a can't-lose deal. A massage training school rented most of the space and was paying so much rent that the arrangement would actually improve the center's cash flow.

A month later, with no warning, the school went out of business. CIL provides counseling and a mixture of other services, such as training programs for employment and small businesses and assistance to people who are leaving nursing homes to live independently. But there was no way the center could afford to pay for the entire building by itself—and the rental market was stone cold.

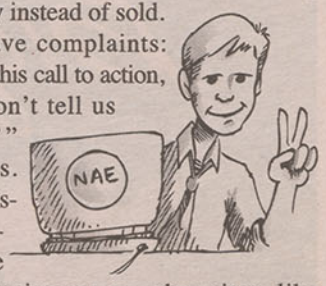
But then the center lived up to its name: it turned 3941 Research Park Drive into a community resource center for disabled individuals. Center CEO Jim Magyar says that McKinley founder Ron Weiser and CEO Albert Berriz made major gifts to carry the group while "we searched for a group of 'strategic partners' to share the building with us." A year later, "Washtenaw Intermediate School District operates a classroom here for some of their students," Magyar says, "and Michigan Rehabilitation Services provide services here as a community partner with the U-M department of physical medicine and rehabilitation." In July two other groups were looking at the last available spaces in the building. Magyar says the financial picture is "close" to where it stood before the disaster. More important, the group's clients now have "a place of our own."

All in the family: One thing tends to lead to another, and suddenly there you are at someone's family reunion. At least that's what happened to local author Nancy Goldstein, who recently published *Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist*.

Goldstein, a retired nurse, is a serious doll collector and doll historian who stumbled on Ormes because the cartoonist had also created dolls. With more digging, Goldstein discovered that Ormes's comics had appeared nationally in black newspapers during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s and then had become largely forgotten. Goldstein knew she *had* to write a book about her—in part because Ormes portrayed black people in realistic and beautiful ways at a time when ugly stereotypes were the norm.

After the book came out, all kinds of groups began inviting Goldstein to talk about Ormes—libraries, universities, doll clubs, history groups, museums, even the National Cartoonists Society. For Goldstein, one of the most special invites came from the Ormes family itself. In late July she and her husband (U-M English prof Larry Goldstein) were planning to attend the family's annual reunion in Salem, Ohio. While Jackie Ormes may have been lost to history, her family never lost track of their past: they've been getting together in Salem, a onetime Underground Railroad hub near the Pennsylvania border, for the past 118 years.

Freelancers of the world, unite! Armed with stickers and laptops, the members of Not an Employee, LLC, meet to . . . distribute stickers and work on their laptops. Local entrepreneurs Barbara and Bill Tozier, Brian Kerr, and Laura Fisher formed Not an Employee last fall as a sort of rallying point for area consultants and freelancers. Their website (notanemployee.com) is really cool, with stirring copy and a retro logo that depicts a fist breaking free of shackles and releasing a ball of fire. But any impression of a mass movement is misleading; so far, creating the website is about all the group has done. Even the stickers, conceived as a way to cover the costs of the website, have been mostly given away instead of sold.



"We have complaints: 'You have this call to action, but you don't tell us what to do,'" Bill admits. He refers visitors needing more concrete assistance to other sites, like notanmba.com. In web terms, he says, notanemployee.com is more like a tag—a keyword that summarizes a website or article—than an active organization. "We offer this as a starting point," he says. "If somebody wants to take it further, that's great."

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$16.99—Florence Nightingale's 1860 *Notes on Nursing*, digitally reproduced by the Michigan Historical Reprint Series, from amazon.com

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With his latest magazine crumbling about him, David E. Davis Jr. says he wants to go on the road and convince everybody to fall back in love with American automobiles.

MARK BIALEK

"I had hard-core, really good people at *Winding Road*," Davis says. "They're unfortunately mostly gone now." He's relocated to Rivertech, an Ypsilanti warehouse full of classic and exotic cars.

Davis single-handedly turned Ann Arbor into an unlikely center of automotive enthusiasm in 1978, when he moved *Car and Driver* here from New York City. He left *C/D* in 1985 to found *Automobile Magazine* for Rupert Murdoch, and joined the online *Winding Road* as editor-in-chief two years ago. But in recent months *Winding Road*'s Texas-based owner has slashed the Ann Arbor staff from thirteen people to five—and also ousted European editor Matt Davis, David E.'s son.

This spring Davis moved out of *WR*'s office on Plymouth Road. "They told me that my sort of talent was not as important to the magazine as it had been," Davis says, "because they were going to be doing a different kind of a magazine. I had hard-core, really good people at *Winding Road*. They're unfortunately mostly gone now."

Though he continues to write for *WR*, Davis, seventy-seven, finds himself with time on his hands—and he's not ready to retire. So he's partnering with former Kenyon & Eckhardt ad agency chief Leo-Arthur Kelmenson to form what he calls an "advocacy group" for American automobiles. "We want people to give American cars another chance," he says. "All we ask is [for people to] reexamine the American product."

He's already talked to former Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca and staffers for Senator Hillary Clinton, and GM boss Rick Wagoner lent him a couple of lawyers to help incorporate the new entity. Davis and Kelmenson first plan to assemble a board of directors from well-known, admired names in American business. Then, Davis says, they'll pull together "a group of extremely talented people who would be able to do a magazine perhaps, a website perhaps, a documentary film, a whole list of communications devices . . . to spread the word."

The target audience, Davis says, is "people who are going to be in the market for a new car—all of them. It just happens, in insurance underwriting terms, the large percentage who are going to be in the market for cars in the very near future will be the baby boomers." As a group, he says, the boomers are "much more careful about their automotive purchases [than their parents]. They are less apt to be impulse buyers." On the other hand, many have deep emotional attachments to American brands—particularly to the muscle cars that ruled the roads when they were young. "Each generation seems to fall in love with cars that it could not afford when it was at its most impressionable," Davis says. "It wasn't very long ago that half the cars at the concours d'elegance would be Duesenbergs. All of a sudden, now, you see Plymouth Road Runners and Dodge Magnums and Pontiac GTOs."

His mission will be to bring those buyers back to American brands. "If you're going to be looking at a Prius, then you ought to be also looking at a [Saturn] Vue with hybrid technology," he argues. "You should be looking at a Chevrolet Malibu with hybrid technology. Mazda calls [its small SUV] the Passport. Ford calls it the Escape."

Davis now works out of Rivertech, the Ypsilanti warehouse where many local enthusiasts store their classic and exotic cars. When the building is open, he holds court for a constant stream of friends and admirers. While the adulation sometimes makes him a little edgy—"They could put me in a glass case, like Lenin"—the location does have an important compensation: "Anytime I feel blocked," he says, "I can go out and look at cars."

Gone to Carolina

The mastermind of the Ann Arbor Radio group has quietly skipped town.

"People here tell me they're afraid I'm going to leave," said Bob Bolak back in January. "They're worried the corporation [Cumulus Media] will say, 'Okay, you've done a good job. Now we're shipping you out.' But that's not my plan. My plan is to be here and stay here and grow here."

Things apparently did not go as Bolak planned. On June 30 he left his post as general manager of Ann Arbor Radio—which includes stations 107one, WWWW, WTKA, and WLBY—and moved to North Carolina. He's now general manager of four stations in Asheville owned by Saga Communications.

"It was the strangest thing," says local radio veteran Lucy Ann Lance. "Nobody expected it. And we only found out about it when we found out his house was for sale."

Bolak's departure does seem strange. Since his arrival in January 2004, Ann Arbor Radio's combined listenership rose from 170,000 to 270,000 and its total advertising revenues jumped 49 percent—signal successes in hard economic times. Thanks to his persuasive advocacy—backed by a quarter-million-dollar annual donation to community nonprofits—he also dramatically improved the community's view of the stations.

Bolak won't say why he left—and repeated calls to the Asheville stations went unreturned. His silence naturally left room for gossip. "Off the record," says one local radio insider, "the rumor is that things were getting difficult between him and the owner. I heard they weren't making money."

Not true, says Bolak's successor, interim market manager Scott Meier: "Ad revenues appear to be up ahead of last year, and it looks like it'll continue that way." So why did Bolak leave? "He told me personally he wanted to be closer to his family," replies Meier, "and I have no reason to doubt him."

Was Bolak's departure abrupt? "Not abrupt exactly," says Meier, "probably more like a well-kept secret. Anytime a popular manager leaves a facility, there's a loss of focus, and I'm sure management wanted to prevent that."

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Bob Bolak built Ann Arbor Radio into a powerhouse—only to leave without a word of warning in June.

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Mandy Harting, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Dermatology

The University of Michigan Department of Dermatology

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University of Michigan Health System

Meier is running both Ann Arbor Radio and Cumulus's four stations in Flint; he says he could be bouncing back and forth between the two jobs for as long as six months. Meier says he has no word on who will ultimately get the general manager's job, but he readily admits Bolak will be a tough act to follow.

Indeed, Meier says that as far as he knows Cumulus has "no plans to change the stations. The DJs will stay the same. Everything will stay the same. Ann Arbor is the rare market that's doing well in Michigan. Why would we change it?"

Asked what he thinks might have prompted Bolak's departure, Meier says two things: "First, he was here five years, and in our business, that's a lifetime. We all have a target on our foreheads. Second, look at North Carolina versus Michigan: whose economy is doing better, and where would you rather be?"

Fingerle's Future

Why would a third-generation family business want to sell its downtown property?

When John Fingerle revealed his namesake lumberyard was looking to sell its seven acres just south of downtown for $22 million, the news triggered an earthquake of excitement among developers.

The real estate company marketing the site described it as ideal for mixed-use commercial development. Mayor John Hieftje told the *Ann Arbor News* it would be a great place to build a train station for his proposed commuter rail line. The Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway said it would be a terrific addition to their proposed series of parks.

Only the U-M professed to be uninterested in the property north of the football stadium. Some speculate the university is waiting to see what others offer before making its move.

There's just one problem: Fingerle Lumber sits in the Allen Creek floodplain—a swath of land on either side of the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks (the creek flows in an underground pipe beneath). In fact, more than half the property is in the central part of the floodplain, the floodway—the path five feet of storm water would take in a 100-year flood—and "state law prohibits new or expanded residential uses in floodways," explains Jerry Hancock, the city's floodplain coordinator. "There are no exceptions and no variances." State law does allow commercial development in a floodway—"but," advises Hancock, "it has to be built on stilts one foot above the base elevation of a hundred-year flood."

The YMCA on Washington and First Martin's 201 Depot building, both in the floodway, were built that way—and ingeniously turned what would otherwise have been their ground floors into on-site

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Fingerle's site offers seven acres for development in the heart of the city—if a new buyer can figure out how to build on the Allen Creek floodplain.

parking lots. City planning staffer Jeff Kahan says the Fingerle site is zoned for "commercial development with a maximum height of four stories"—but he acknowledges that having the building set on pylons at least six feet tall would "likely preclude retail businesses."

These obstacles have understandably dampened some people's enthusiasm for the site. "I don't know why any developer would be interested in it," says local developer Ed Shaffran. "In these economic times, I don't see anybody jumping for that opportunity."

To Shaffran, the only logical buyer for the Fingerle property is the U-M: "They've got prime property near there, just north of the Stadium [Boulevard] bridge, where their athletic practice fields are. They could move those fields into the floodplain and build buildings there. It makes perfect sense."

After all the brouhaha when he listed the property, John Fingerle was at first hesitant to talk about his decision to sell it. Then, saying he was busy running his business, he declined to be interviewed altogether.

Still, it's not hard to guess why he wants to sell. Fingerle Lumber's salesroom on South Fifth Avenue used to be jammed with do-it-yourselfers on weekends. With the arrival of the Home Depot in 1998—and Lowe's a few years later—that business is largely gone. The loss would have been tolerable as long as home construction was booming—but now the bottom's dropped out of that business, too.

Even without the prospect of the $22 million, John Fingerle has got to be tempted by the thought of a smaller location with lower overhead and taxes.

calls & letters

Dem vs. Dem

"I enjoyed your piece on local politics in the last issue of the Observer," emailed Fifth Ward council candidate Carsten Hohnke. "Unfortunately, the article incorrectly identified my educational background as including a Ph.D. from Yale. My doctorate is from MIT."

Citing family and business pressures, First Ward incumbent Ron Suarez dropped out of the race after our July issue went to press. Though his name remains alongside Sandi Smith's on the August 5 ballot, Suarez is asking his supporters to vote for write-in candidate Patricia Lesko. A publisher and occasional Observer contributor, Lesko worked on the "Ask Voters First" campaign, which petitioned unsuccessfully for a public vote on the bonds used to finance the addition to City Hall. She's running on themes of accessibility, accountability, and transparency.

In Scio Township, we missed the one candidate who's not running on any slate: Jack Knowles, a landscape architect who's served on several building-related township boards. He's running for trustee on a limited-government platform, and says he would seek other operational savings to reduce the size of any new public safety millage.

Parking at Vahan's

Our July Marketplace Changes column quoted Renaissance owner Roger Pothus as saying that his planned new location would be "the only retail establishment downtown with on-site parking." George Kempf, the Fiegel's veteran who now manages Vahan's Clothing, called to set the record straight. "Vahan's Clothing has always provided on-site parking for our customers," Kempf pointed out. "We don't provide public parking, but we always say in our advertising, 'Free parking for customers behind the store.'"

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JARED NEWTON

Dick Sampier says more people now buy cheap vacuums—and toss them when they break.

Sucking It Up

Repairman Dick Sampier fears he's filling a vanishing vacuum.

The machines that dispose of crud on your carpet are themselves becoming disposable, says a rueful Sampier, who at age seventy-four has been selling and fixing Ann Arborites' vacuum cleaners for four decades. He can't resist sharing an old chestnut: his business *sucks*. "But it will pick up!" Sampier laughs, carrying the groaner to the finish line.

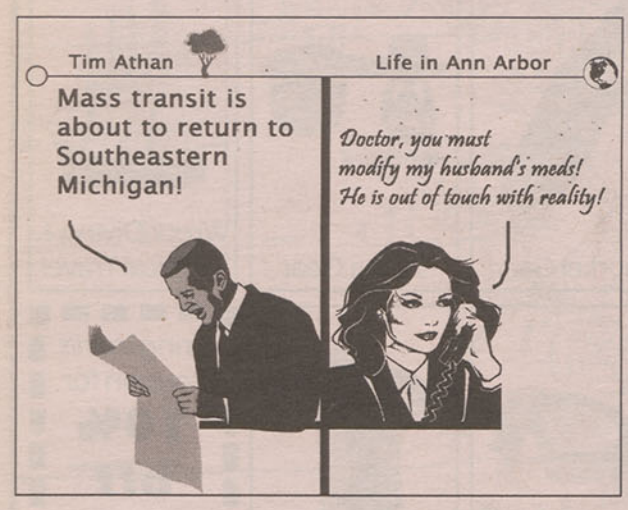
Tucked away behind Stadium Hardware, Sampier's 600-square-foot shop is so jammed with vacuums, equipment, and cleaning supplies that the only clear area is the path from the front door to the counter. Sampier is serious when he says he has no room for an assistant. The claustrophobic might freak, but Sampier says that European customers often beam and say it reminds them of shops back home.

Sampier sells vacuums but does a bigger business in repair. The problem is that cheaper machines have flooded the market the past ten years, and few people bother to repair those—when they break, the owners just toss them. (Sampier himself sometimes picks them up from the trash, fixes them, and sells them used.)

Sampier, who grew up on a farm in Milan, got started in the business selling Electrolux vacuums door to door. Promoted to manager, he sent machines that came in for service out for repair—until he figured out how to fix them himself. Eventually he opened his own business, moving to his present spot six years ago, where new customers find him mostly by word of mouth.

Sampier knows his one-man repair business is fast becoming an anachronism in a society that talks green but would still rather replace than repair. He says he can't afford to retire, but it's clear he enjoys both tinkering with machines and talking to customers, who appreciate him in turn. One older woman who was giving up her house tearfully gave him her still-functioning Hoover.

Students are not a big part of his business, Sampier says—and when they do appear, they're often dragged in by solicitous parents. He remembers one undergrad whose mother kept trying out different machines, asking, "What do you think?" Finally, her daughter snapped, "I don't care, Mom. I'm never going to use one anyway."


Tim Athan
Life in Ann Arbor
Mass transit is about to return to Southeastern Michigan!
Doctor, you must modify my husband's meds! He is out of touch with reality!

question corner

Q: Are there any plans to improve the bike paths in Ann Arbor?

A: The city's 2007 Comprehensive Nonmotorized Plan recommends adding bike lanes in the near term by restriping existing roads, and in the long term by creating lanes when major streets are rebuilt. The lanes recently added to West Stadium between Pauline and Maple, for example, will eventually run the entire length of the corridor. But the next big change will come downtown: when Division Street and Fifth Avenue are rebuilt, they'll lose one traffic lane to make room for bike lanes and for more on-street parking.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is leading development of the Border to Border Trail, which passes through Ann Arbor along the Huron River. When complete, it will run from Hudson Mills Metropark north of Dexter all the way to the Wayne County line in Ypsilanti Township.

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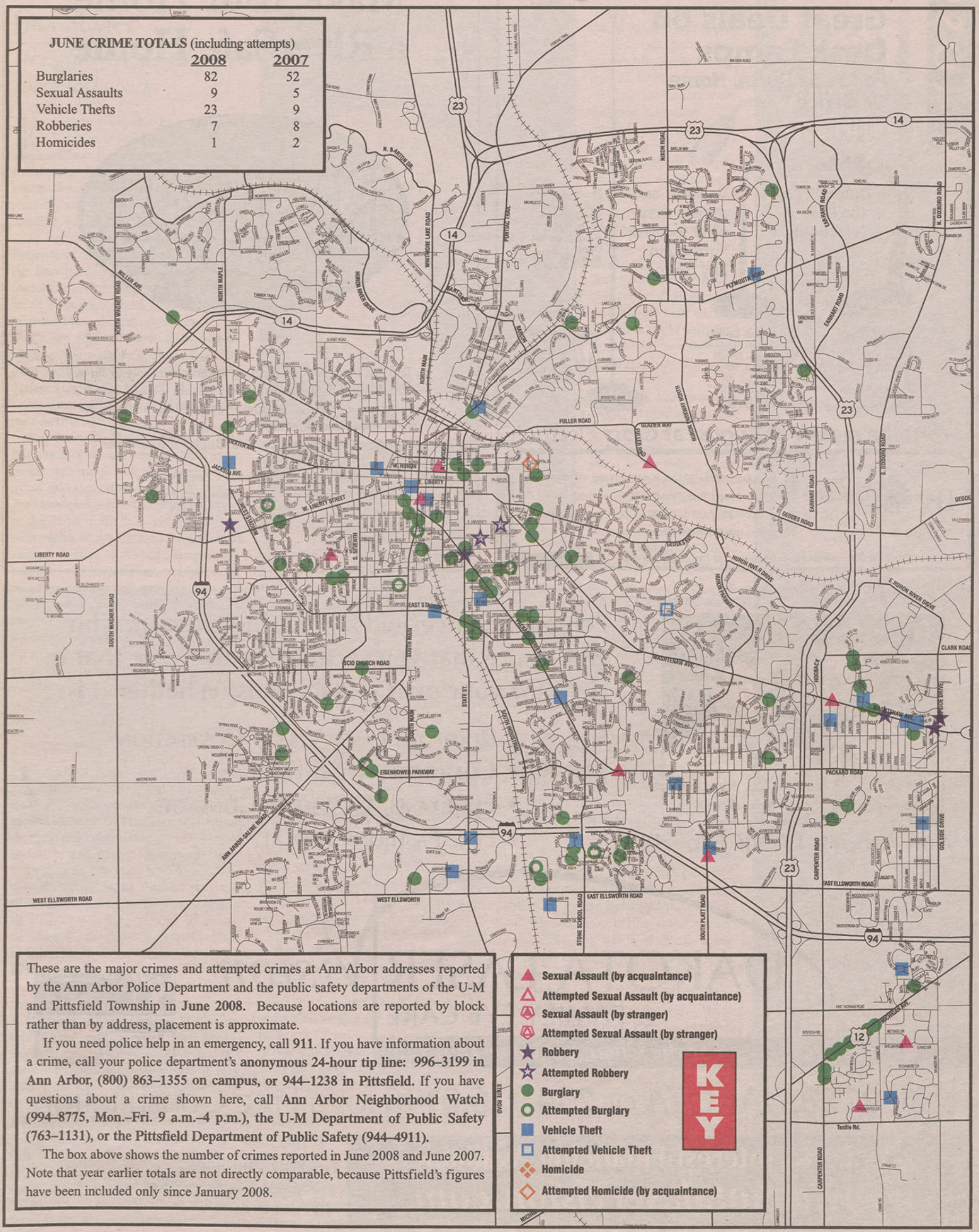
CrimeMap

JUNE CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2008	2007
Burglaries	82	52
Sexual Assaults	9	5
Vehicle Thefts	23	9
Robberies	7	8
Homicides	1	2



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **June 2008.** Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911**. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box above shows the number of crimes reported in June 2008 and June 2007. Note that year earlier totals are not directly comparable, because Pittsfield's figures have been included only since January 2008.

KEY

- Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Robbery
- Attempted Robbery
- Burglary
- Attempted Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- Attempted Vehicle Theft
- Homicide
- Attempted Homicide (by acquaintance)

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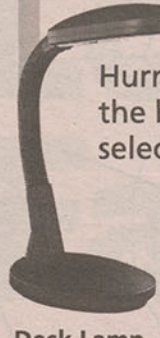

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Gus Stager

At eighty-five, an Olympic coach looks back

Forty-eight years after he coached the U.S. Olympic swim team to nine gold medals in Rome, Gus Stager remains a fixture at Canham Natatorium. Now eighty-five, the longtime U-M coach still regularly swims sixty or seventy laps and dispenses advice as required.

In six decades of swimming, Gus Stager has coached and observed some of the best talent in the sport. He helped found Club Wolverine, the Ann Arbor–based swim club where 2008 Olympians Michael Phelps, Peter Vanderkaay, Erik Vendt, and Allison Schmitt all trained for Beijing. And while he's reluctant to compare swimmers of different decades, Stager says he has to rank Phelps with seven-time gold medalist Mark Spitz as the best he's ever seen.

Bob Bowman, Phelps's coach and until this summer the university's head swim coach, will travel with the Olympic team as an assistant. Bowman's predecessor, Jon Urbanchek—who competed for Stager at the U-M in the late 1950s—will be working his eighth Olympiad in Beijing as special assistant to the team director. Urbanchek, who helped coach Phelps for the past four years in order to give Bowman more time to work with the Michigan swim team, has personally coached more than forty Olympians, the vast majority of them graduates of the U-M. Urbanchek calls Phelps "the most talented athlete who ever swam on this earth. I won't say 'the universe,' because they recently discovered water on Mars."

COURTESY U-M BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY

COURTESY ANDI STAGER

(Top) Gus Stager as U-M swim coach in 1957. His team won an NCAA championship that year—and three more in the next four years. (Above) Stager today with son Gus III and grandson A.P. (Gus IV).

A "Jersey boy," Stager swam for Newark Academy and played guard and tackle on its football team. He recalls listening to Michigan football on the radio and being seduced by the sounds of fall in Ann Arbor. Though his father worked as an executive with Union Carbide in Manhattan, he realized early that he wasn't cut out for the business world. If he wasn't going to make a lot of money, he figured he should be of service, perhaps as a teacher, like the coaches who were mentoring him.

After serving in France and the Philippines during World War II, Stager enrolled at Michigan, studying math while swimming for legendary coach Matt Mann. Stager remembers how Mann would observe the mood of his swimmers as they entered the pool. If they were enthusiastic, he worked them hard. If they acted tired and sullen, they got a light workout. "We were too dumb to ever catch on," Stager claims.

Stager was an innovative competitor. At the time swimmers wore "tank" suits, nylon one-pieces that were relatively heavy when wet. So Stager had his wife, Curt, cut the top off and insert a drawstring around the waist. "I had her do it so I could swim faster," he recalls.

After graduation Stager was hired as a teacher and swimming coach at Fordson High School in Dearborn. Fordson's swim team had never experienced success, yet in Stager's first year, several swimmers placed in the state meet. The following year his team won the state championship. Within five years, Fordson was ranked one of the top three teams in the country.

All through his years at Fordson, Stager commuted from his home on Hockey Lane in Ann Arbor. He didn't move because he had always hoped one day to coach at Michigan. In 1954, he got his wish. He'd remain the U-M's coach until 1979.

"He was so far advanced in his training methods," recalls Frank Legacki, captain of the 1961 team. "We worked harder than any other team in the country." Besides carefully planning workouts and interval training, Stager was one of the first coaches whose swimmers shaved their legs for competition—a lifelong sailor, he had observed enough prows cutting through water to know something about drag and resistance. In the five seasons of 1956–1961, Stager's U-M teams won the NCAA title four times.

"Gus imparted a lot of his coaching habits to me," recalls Urbanchek—including a willingness to embrace innovation. "The amount of science and technology—biomechanics, better training methods, better psychology—that has come into our sport over the past thirty years has been incredible," Urbanchek states. That may be why Stager doesn't like to compare swimmers of different generations—who knows how earlier swimmers might have performed with contemporary training and the new Speedo suits?

Besides continuing to swim, Stager walks his four-year-old retriever, Gabe, every day on favored nature trails in Ann Arbor, and he rides his bike along the Huron River. And he still sails every summer on Lake Michigan by the Indiana Dunes, where he has a cottage. He expects to watch the Olympics there—but if the wind is up, he'll go sailing.

"Exercise is the secret to longevity," says Stager. While he has made few concessions to time, in May 2007 he lost Curt, his wife of fifty-eight years. The two met in class at the U-M and were married in 1948. They have two children and four grandchildren.

This fall some fifty swimmers from Stager's U-M national championship teams will return to honor him and reflect on their feats of fifty years ago. Frank Legacki, who recently sold his Ann Arbor–based health care software business, will remember that his old coach cared not just about the athlete but about the student, too. "He spent a lot of time with me when I was struggling with a math course my sophomore year," Legacki says. "Even though we had an easy meet against Purdue, he made me go, and he made me sit next to him on the bus all the way down to West Lafayette doing math problems. I even carried the textbook into the pool. I ended up doing very well in that class."

Legacki and his teammates, many of whom went on to be prominent businessmen, doctors, lawyers, and coaches, carried Stager's teaching with them through their careers. "They achieved what I expected of them," says the old coach without a trace of sentimentality or braggadocio. "And I achieved what they expected of me."

—Steve Rosoff

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Keith Courage

Confessions of an urban chicken

Photos of Corporal Keith appearing on various battlefields were the highlight of Yoni's World War II history project.

We didn't intend to be outlaws—it was the kids. One day our two sons returned from a rained-out expedition to Cedar Point bearing a dozen ears of corn, big smiles, and a box that made noise. I accepted the corn and, wary of the smiles, peeked into the box. Inside was a cute white chicken. "Mom, it'll be great!" they promised. "We'll build a coop in the backyard." I shot them a dirty look—masters of the fait accompli!

With the help of the neighbors, who lent lights, tools, and ideas, "Keith Courage" soon moved into his new home—and we were illegal chicken owners. "No matter," I grumbled. "Let the fraternity boys complain. Just let 'em complain!" So far, they haven't. (Just let 'em!)

Keith loved company. Whenever we'd go out back we'd be met with clucking and inquisitive pecks. And after several months, during a morning visit to the coop, we found an egg. This was not what you'd expect of a Keith, but Yoni declared we should "not be bound by gender norms," so Keith she remained.

Keith became a mascot of sorts, starring in Yoni's World War II history display. Photos of Corporal Keith appearing on various battlefields were the highlight of the project and required the entire family's cooperation. Yoni's sister Jo fashioned a helmet for the chicken, but Keith's patience would go only so far, so she added a wire and Dad dangled the helmet above the recalcitrant chicken's head. Yoni got an A.

Alas, poor Keith. One morning Grandma looked out at the coop and saw a lot of feathers. "Boy, your little chicken is sure molting a lot," she announced. Yoni went out to investigate. He found a hole in the chicken wire and a bunch of bloody feathers.

That afternoon Yoni organized a memorial gathering for Keith. He ruminated on the vagaries and fragility of life and the responsibilities of being a chicken owner. When we got up one by one to remember this little white Silkie, it turned out that each of us used to go out to visit with Keith from time to time. She was a sociable hen.

Grandma hovered in the back, not really sure how to respond to a memorial for a chicken (especially in view of our dinner menu the night before). But finally she came forward and told us about Brownie, the pet chicken she had as a little girl.

We got new chickens, including "Brownie Junior." The boys built a second and then a third coop. The last iteration required trips to the recycling center, power tools, and a temporary move of the current chickens into the downstairs bathroom.

Coop III has been a big success. Yoni added a skylight, and the current tenants, Princess Za and Brownie Junior (aka Janet, after Grandma), seem content. They are both laying again, and the fresh eggs are good.

Neither of them has Keith's charm, but it's still fun. We've learned a lot about pecking order, chicken psychology, and construction, and even sparked some interest in farming. We've been blessed with good pets, good neighbors, and good eggs—and this month we'll finally have the chance to make legal chickens out of them. Meanwhile, there's nothing like watching the chickens hop onto their roost for the night, settle their feathers, and, with a few final clucks, bid us good night.

—Nehama S. Glogower

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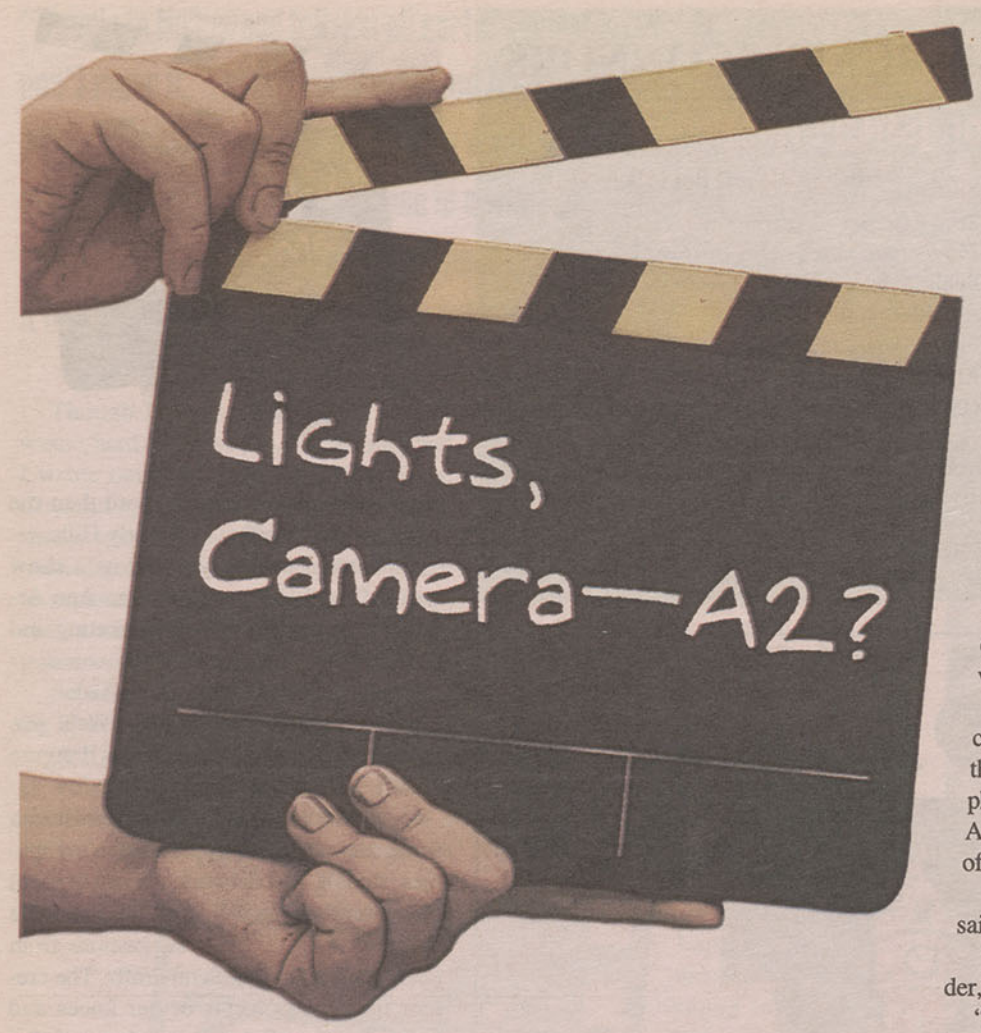

An insider's guide for when Hollywood comes to town

by Lowell Cauffiel

Look out, Ann Arbor. Hollywood is coming. It's bringing glamorous stars, red carpets, and film crews.

At least it seems that way.

Real estate agents report a surge of inquiries about properties that could be used by filmmakers. Bloggers report Drew Barrymore sightings in Ypsilanti. And the Michigan Film Office in Lansing reports that Ann Arbor is a top location choice as producers swamp its staff with scripts for possible production in the state.

Money is driving the interest.

Michigan's new film incentive program, signed into law earlier this year, is the most generous in the country. Producers can receive up to 42¢ back on every dollar spent here shooting movies and television shows. That means a $20 million film can be made for $12 million. The payoff for Michigan is jobs, economic stimulus, and a face-lift for its sagging nationwide image.

Among those who lobbied for the package were Chelsea actor Jeff Daniels and director-actor-writer Mike Binder *(Reign over Me)*, a Detroit native who started his show business career doing stand-up at the Pretzel Bell and the Blind Pig when he was still in high school. And the connections to Ann Arbor go beyond the homegrown talent.

"We really sell Ann Arbor because it's a great location," says film office director Janet Lockwood. "It's got a downtown, neighborhoods, the U of M, outlying areas, the river, and great parks. There are a number of people very interested, but nothing solid yet."

Nothing solid yet.

I know that one. I know it because for the past six years I've been working as a writer and producer in Hollywood. Show business, or "the industry," as it's called in Los Angeles, has a way of generating all sorts of excitement—even when nothing is very solid at all.

My first case of Tinseltown euphoria came fifteen years ago. I was a crime author living near Chelsea when I got a phone call from Dick Clark Productions. A producer said she wanted to option one of my books and adapt it to film.

"It's going to be so beautiful," she said.

"It's a book about a gruesome murder," I said.

"No," she continued. "*You*. It's going to be so beautiful watching *you*. This town is going to swoop you right up to the top. In a year you'll be out here taking meetings in a beach house in Malibu. That's how fast it's going to happen. I just *feel* it."

Wow.

But within a week she lost all interest in the book. I never heard from her again.

In 2002 I moved to L.A. to pursue a screenwriting career—and learned more about how quickly big expectations can evaporate in Hollywood. In five years here I've written two features for studios, sold three one-hour pilots to top networks, and qualified for membership in the exclusive Writers Guild of America.

No one has seen my films or TV shows. They haven't been produced. Still, I've been paid well by the networks and studios—paid to be read by as few as ten people. And I'm in demand. Nearly every week I meet with producers on the Fox, Disney, Paramount, and Warner Brothers lots to discuss projects.

All this has caused me to believe in only two reliable signs that something *solid* is happening when it comes to Hollywood. First, a check, when I endorse it. Second, the word "action," when a director yells it. Only then can anyone know for sure somebody is actually making a film or a TV show.

So here's some advice to my old neighbors: Settle down, A2. Hit a yoga class or do some tai chi at dawn. At the very least, switch from a caffeine drip to a decaf soy latte. Because, should Hollywood actually start doing business in Ann Arbor, you are in for a very strange journey.

And I'm here to help. In fact, I've developed some rules that will help preserve emotional balance if and when you rub elbows with an industry that has a way of intoxicating people like no other.

At the least, they should help explain why Hollywood often doesn't seem to make any sense: why bad material shows up on the screen, and why TV shows and films you would love to watch go unmade.

And now, those rules:

Rule 1: Remember, it's happy talk

I learned about what an actor friend of mine calls "happy talk" in my first few weeks in L.A. I'd been offered a deal to adapt my book *Masquerade* to film, and I figured I should do it at ground zero. I already knew that developing face-to-face industry "relationships" makes all the difference in breaking into the screen trade.

But I needed a Hollywood agent. So one of my first stops was a visit to a top agency that already was representing my books to filmmakers. I asked a senior agent if the firm could represent me as a screenwriter as well.

"You have one of the most amazing backgrounds of any screenwriter we've ever signed," he said, his whitened teeth gleaming. "But we're *not* going to sign you. You're so good, you have so much experience, it would be difficult for us to get you meetings. People aren't going to know what to do with you."

That, A2, is *happy talk*. It's the Hollywood practice of trying to make someone feel good—even when nothing very good is happening at all.

Weeks later, I signed with the Rothman Brecher Agency. The fact that two of its agents were straight-talking Michigan

Hit a yoga class or do some tai chi at dawn. At the very least, switch from a caffeine drip to a decaf soy latte. Because, should Hollywood actually start doing business in Ann Arbor, you are in for a very strange journey.
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natives impressed me far more than the agency's stylish office in Beverly Hills.

"We want to take you out as a show creator," said Camran Shafii, an Ann Arbor native and 1996 U-M marketing and film grad.

"What's a show creator?" I asked.

"Don't worry," Camran said. "We'll give you some pilot scripts and you'll figure it out."

I learned that a "creator" conceives a series and pitches it to production companies, studios, and networks. If any of them buys the idea, the creator is paid to write the pilot script, fielding suggestions from executives through several drafts. The creator then drops to his or her knees and prays that the pilot will get shot and that the show will get picked up and survive 100 episodes. That's because 100 episodes means about $25 million in the bank—and a network deal to develop even more shows.

It wasn't only the money that was tempting. In the world of feature films, directors dominate; in TV, though, the top writers, known as executive producers, have the creative clout. I saw a chance to do quality television drama in the tradition of such gifted creators as Steven Bochco and *The Sopranos'* David Chase.

My new direction, however, did not mean an end to the happy talk.

In my first year, I pitched two shows to nearly thirty production companies and networks. I sold a Detroit-based drama called *Alter Road* to *Friends* star David Schwimmer's production company. David and I then pitched and sold it to NBC. After I submitted the pilot script a couple months later, network executives called us.

"You've written the perfect pilot," a top NBC executive told me. "We wouldn't change a single line."

But they didn't shoot it.

I had a similar experience after Billy Crystal chose me as his cocreator on a series we pitched and sold to HBO. Called *Kronk,* it was an edgy drama set in the famous Detroit boxing gym. Celebrated trainer Emanuel Steward served as our consultant. The series would detail the lives of three boxers facing the economic and racial challenges of the Motor City.

After we finished the pilot script, then–HBO chairman Chris Albrecht gave us our final round of suggested improvements—known in the industry as "notes."

"Execute these notes and we're going to shoot this thing," Albrecht said. "This is a beautiful piece of work."

We executed the notes. But *Kronk* never went forward.

"People in Hollywood tell you all sorts of great things, but they really don't mean it," says my actor friend Tony. "They tell you because they want you to feel good. But they only want you to feel good because it makes *them* feel good. Then once in a while you'll find out they really mean it, and boom, something happens. But until then, always consider it happy talk, or you'll end up in a rubber room."

Though HBO never told me why, it wasn't hard to figure out. While Billy and I wrote our pilot, *Million Dollar Baby, Cinderella Man,* and two boxing reality shows went into production. Boxing drama had gone from the flavor of the month to as passé as a three-day-old quiche. Even quality material and star power provide no guarantees in Tinseltown.

So why does everyone insist on keeping up the happy talk?

One popular theory is that careers are so volatile in Hollywood, the person somebody rejects one day could be in a position to end his or her career only months down the road. So showering everyone with praise is a way to cover one's backside.

My actor friend Tony thinks it goes deeper. You've seen Tony in more than 100 TV shows and films over the past thirty years. But I'm not going to tell you who he is. Straight talk can be hazardous to even a veteran actor's career.

"People in Hollywood tell you all sorts of great things, but they really don't mean it," he says. "They tell you because they want you to feel good. But they only want you to feel good because it makes *them* feel good. Then once in a while you'll find out they really mean it, and boom, something happens. But until then, always consider it happy talk, or you'll end up in a rubber room."

Jessica Cauffiel blows a kiss at the premiere of *The World's Fastest Indian.* The author's daughter and style guide says Hollywood operates like "the world's largest dysfunctional family."

PHOTO COURTESY LOWELL CAUFFIEL

Rule 2: Don't tuck in

The day I arrived in L.A., my daughter, Jessica, a U-M musical theater graduate and an accomplished film and television actress, took me to the premiere of *8 Mile*. I put on black dress slacks and tucked in a black cashmere turtleneck. It was a glitzy premiere, right?

She told me to change—and never "tuck in."

"You look like you're trying too hard," she said. "As a creative type, you have to dress like you absolutely don't give a damn."

She was right. At the premiere, the film's screenwriter looked as if his jeans hadn't been washed in weeks. Director Curtis Hanson hadn't shaved in days. Eminem showed up looking as if he'd just come from the gym.

It was my introduction to the industry's unwritten dress code. I know it sounds crazy, but I'm convinced that if I showed up in a coat and tie for a pitch meeting I wouldn't be taken seriously, even if I were bringing executives the next *Iron Man* or *24*. Creative types—writers, actors, and directors—dress down for everyday business. Yet agents and attorneys always dress in suits, which is why they're called that. Executives and producers float somewhere in between.

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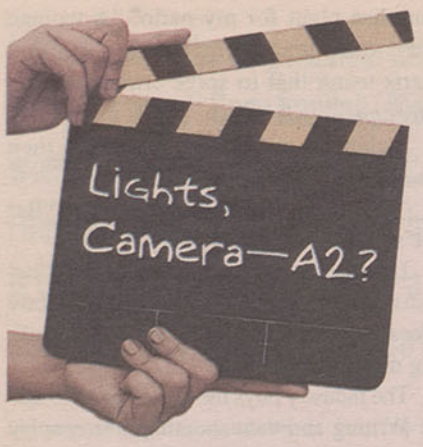

This is not to say people look like bums, particularly in sales or audition mode. One of my friends here makes a six-figure income as a personal stylist, secretly showing industry people how to dress. They pay her $400 an hour to accompany them when they shop.

"For men, there's nothing more attractive than white teeth and a simple attractive shirt," she advises. "As a general rule, wear one expensive or exclusive item, and let the rest of the ensemble be rather ordinary."

This is show business, after all, with big emphasis on *show*. It's all part of doing business in what a screenwriter friend calls "America's ground zero of narcissism."

"You want to attract attention, but you don't want to look like you're trying to attract attention," this friend says. "Attracting attention is a key part of evoking confidence and putting yourself in the position to work. But if you look like you *need* the work, that evokes what I like to call the stink of desperation."

Many struggling to get a foothold here go to great lengths to present a winning image, even with a limited income. One independent producer I know always valets his new Mercedes for expensive industry lunches at the Ivy. His prospective investors never see his one-room, 300-square-foot garage apartment, where his kitchen consists of a bathroom sink and a hot plate.

Myself, I've met the challenge with faded Lucky jeans, motorcycle boots, and casual but fine-quality shirts by Ted Baker or Martin Gordon. I haven't worn a tie, and rarely a sport coat, in six years. Still, it takes me a good hour to get ready for an industry meeting.

It takes a lot of time and effort to look like you don't give a damn.

Rule 3: You are what you say you are—for a minute

My first date in L.A. revealed this Hollywood truth. She called herself an "actor," though she'd never acted in anything. As we drove down Santa Monica Boulevard she took a cell phone call from a friend.

"I'm going to dinner with a writer," I heard her tell her caller. "Yes, he's a writer. . . . No, he's a *real* writer. . . . No, he doesn't work in a restaurant."

More insight came in the neighborhood near the Sunset Strip where I stayed for my first two months. The apartment manager introduced himself as a "director." A neighbor who worked as a sales clerk at the nearby Virgin Megastore called himself a "producer." And the scantily clad woman I chatted with one day on Sunset Boulevard told me she was a "screenwriter." She asked if I would read her script and give her notes.

A minute later, I watched her flag down a john for her next trick.

In this business, titles are self applied. "It's kind of crazy," says Rob Steinberg, an actor who's worked in some forty films and TV shows. "It's like someone going into a surgical suite and saying, 'I'm a brain surgeon. Just give me a brain, a scalpel, and an opportunity, and I know I could do something great.'"

Most of these folks are hoping for lightning to strike. Ever since Lana Turner was reportedly discovered at a soda counter in Hollywood in the 1930s, the myth of the overnight success has seduced countless numbers of the unskilled and unprepared.

My first date in L.A. called herself an "actor," though she'd never acted in anything. As we drove down Santa Monica Boulevard she took a cell phone call. "I'm going to dinner with a writer," I heard her tell her caller. "Yes, he's a writer. . . . No, he's a *real* writer. . . . No, he doesn't work in a restaurant."

The latest version of this myth is the tale of Diablo Cody, the first-time screenwriter who won an Oscar for *Juno*. The former Brook Busey-Hunt, the Hollywood story goes, took the name Diablo Cody while working as a stripper, wrote *Juno* in a Wal-Mart coffee shop in Minnesota, and a year later was gliding across the red carpet. It sounds like a Cinderella scenario—unless you know that Brook was also a University of Iowa media studies graduate who sharpened her writing skills as a journalist, blogger, and book author before she ever attempted a screenplay. She also found a great agent.

Wherever the industry goes, you can be assured people who aren't exactly the real deal will be close by. Posers can suck time, energy, and money from unsuspecting folks desperate to get in on the Hollywood action. Yet the people they deceive most are themselves. Despite the beautiful people, Ferraris, and exclusive boutiques that populate L.A.'s west side, Hollywood can be a crushing experience for those who think wishing, hoping, and ambition alone will carry the day.

In fact, it can go bad very quickly even for those of us who are totally prepared. During last winter's Writers Guild walkout, I read sniping comments calling the stoppage a "millionaires' strike." But I saw few millionaires on my picket line outside Fox. Most were living from deal to deal, averaging less yearly income than an au-

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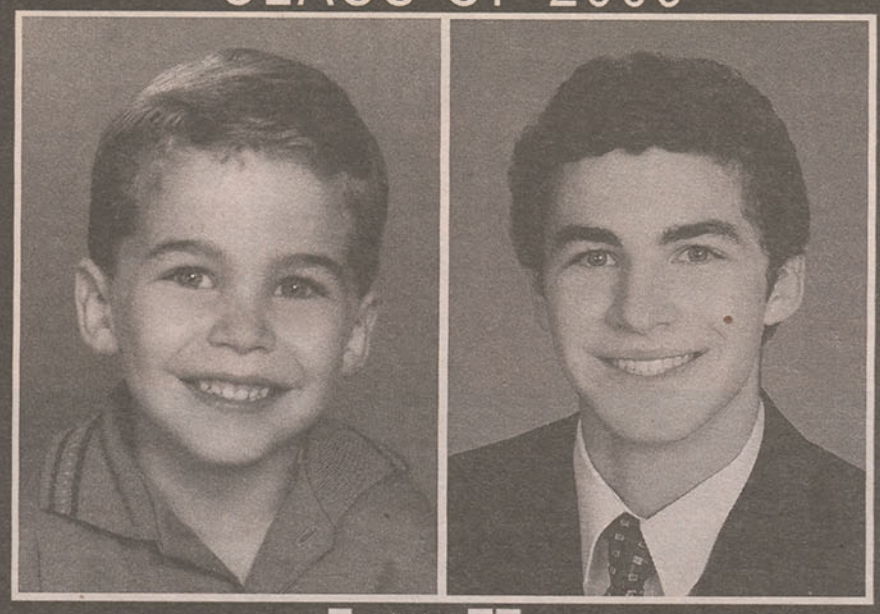

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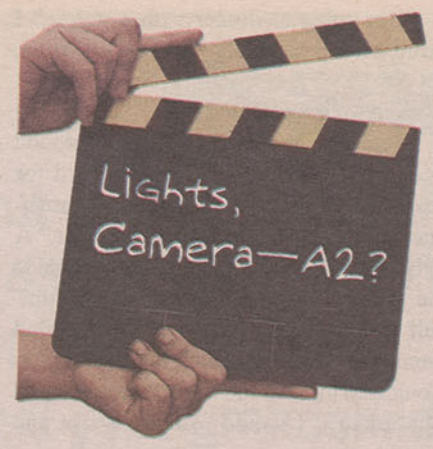

toworker and unable to ever buy a home in pricey L.A.

Before Phoenix Pictures hired me to rewrite one of its horror films last year, I read the autobiography of its founder, Mike Medavoy. It's called *You're Only As Good As Your Next One*. In it, the prolific film executive provides an apt warning.

"Hollywood is a dream factory," Mike writes. "And for each dream that comes true, a million nightmares are created."

Rule 4: No one is buying ideas

When I was writing books, would-be authors often approached me. The conversation usually went something like this:

"I could write a book about my life. It would be a best-seller. Maybe I'll have you write my book for me."

"So," I'd say, "if I do the writing, then whose book is it? Yours or mine?"

Hollywood has its own version of this—one that can turn into outright stalking. Most stars return all unsolicited materials unopened so they can't be accused of stealing ideas. People with ideas and scripts accost producers in restaurants, at airports, and on their doorsteps in the deep of night. It's one reason many industry homes are guarded by gates—known in L.A. as "F-you" gates.

"Here's my idea," a nursery worker told me recently as I bought a giant bird of paradise plant for my patio. "A woman finds out she can hear plants think and starts using that to solve crimes, like in *Medium*."

I glanced at the new plant and then back at her.

"I'll let you use it," she continued. "But we split everything fifty-fifty."

I passed on the deal—and not just because her idea was wacky. I don't buy ideas, and neither does anyone else making movies or TV.

The industry buys the *execution* of ideas.

Writing and then shooting a screenplay or an hour of television requires skills that take years to master. And Hollywood has thousands of experienced writers, directors, and producers who are constantly generating thousands of ideas they hope a network, studio, or financier will back and distribute. Yet even among this group, only a small percentage will ever see their ideas materialize.

Which brings us to . . .

Rule 5: The odds are against anything getting shot

The film industry is sometimes called the "L.A. lottery." Here's why:

Every year, more than 55,000 movie scripts and treatments are penned by writers serious enough to protect their property by registering it with the Writers Guild. Yet in 2007 the industry released only 590 films. That's one movie made for every ninety-three projects registered. Even if you assume that 95 percent of the scripts registered were worthless, that would still leave some 3,000 great scripts—of which only one of five got made.

Creating successful television series is no less daunting. My agent, Camran Shafii, tells me that networks develop about 400 pilots each year. "Develop" means the network pays the creator to write a pilot script. But of the 400 pilots developed, only about 100 will actually be shot. After audience

PHOTO COURTESY LOWELL CAUFFIEL

During the Writers Guild walkout, I read sniping comments calling it a "millionaires' strike." But I saw few millionaires on my picket line outside Fox. Most were living from deal to deal, averaging less yearly income than an autoworker and unable to ever buy a home in pricey L.A.

"Television is the only medium that finds ways to break your heart all along the way," Gary Randall, the producer of *Saving Grace*, told me when we pitched a show together. Projects fall apart for all kinds of reasons. A top actor or director bows out. The executive who bought it is fired or takes another job. Or a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy decides to stop a speeding car on the Pacific Coast Highway.

testing and other considerations, fewer than thirty will ever be aired. Of those, twenty will die in their first season. That's a one-in-forty chance of going from pilot script to a multiyear series.

"Television is the only medium that finds ways to break your heart all along the way," Gary Randall, the veteran Fox producer of *Saving Grace,* told me when we pitched a show together. "You sell the pilot on a pitch, but they don't shoot the pilot. You get the pilot shot, but then they don't pick it up. You go to series, but they cancel you."

Projects fall apart regularly for reasons that have nothing to do with the quality or originality of the material. Film and television are collaborative efforts with many components. Getting a project into production is like solving Rubik's Cube.

Three years ago, after visiting the Michael Jackson trial on a whim, I came up with a TV series I called *High Profile*. Its main character was a fictional woman attorney who argued only high-visibility cases. I brought on attorney and *Court TV* analyst Anne Bremner as a consultant. We sold it to Spelling Entertainment and then placed it at UPN. By Christmas my pilot script was finished and on track to be produced.

Then, one beautiful southern California morning in January 2006, I picked up the *L.A. Times* off my doorstep and saw the headline: "UPN and WB to Merge into One Network." I knew *High Profile*'s run was over. Cramming two network schedules into one meant the kiss of death for all the UPN pilots that year.

Projects fall apart for all kinds of reasons. A top actor or director bows out. The executive who bought it is fired or takes another job. Or a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy decides to stop a speeding car on the Pacific Coast Highway.

That's what killed a great series about a young psychic that my daughter, Jessica, and I created for Con Artists Productions in 2006. We were scheduled to pitch the show to ABC the first week of August. But on July 28, police arrested the owner of Con Artists for drunk driving. His subsequent comments about Jews made some headlines.

ABC canceled a miniseries it was developing with Mel Gibson's Con Artists Productions. The network canceled our pitch meeting as well.

Rule 6: Get a shaman

Ann Arbor may indeed be the best location in Michigan for Hollywood—for reasons unrelated to locations or technical skills. In order to deal with the challenges of life in the industry, many people out here find they need a higher power to get them through the day.

Unlike many other Michigan cities, Ann Arbor offers a robust variety of Twelve Step groups, healing practitioners, and New Age spirituality. This is as important as the practice of cosmetic surgery and dentistry in the creation of the ideal industry town.

Los Angeles is awash with things of this sort. They're offered in a half-inch-thick monthly publication, the *Whole Person*. In its pages you can find scores of intuitives, psychics, hypnotherapists, energy workers, mystics, astrologers, gurus, shamans, yoga studios, feng shui designers, tai chi masters, New Age church services, massage therapists, colon therapists, "spiritual psychotherapists," and even an exorcist or two.

No luck with those? Perhaps a class to deal with those troublesome "out-of-body experiences" will help. Or go for the whole banana: "Would you like to become God?" one ad asks. "Reincarnational Vedic Astrology" offers a chance at it for $120 per reading.

My daughter has a theory about the popularity of such pursuits. "Hollywood operates like the world's largest dysfunctional family," Jessica says. "You face unyielding disappointments and rejections, and trust is hard to come by. People need to find a higher calling, a greater perspective, to help them stay in balance here."

For me, I center myself by surfing in the Pacific and attending a men's group where we discuss mutual problems and share solutions. In fact, I'm not sure I could deal with "the industry" without either one.

That's not to say the business doesn't hold another kind of magic. It's what keeps so many of us getting up each day and trying again after being knocked flat on our faces the day before.

I remember when Billy Crystal and I started putting together the first pages of dialogue for our ill-fated *Kronk* series. I'd created a couple of Detroit characters on the pages: a veteran black trainer and a hard-bargaining boxing promoter of Middle Eastern descent.

"So, Billy, this promoter is trying to convince the trainer to sign his fighter," I said. "How do you think that conversation would go?"

I watched in awe as the veteran actor and comedian transformed into both characters, spitting out dialogue off the top of his head, complete with accents and facial expressions. One minute he would have me laughing; five beats later he'd put a tear in my eye.

This is why Billy Crystal is *Billy Crystal,* I thought.

There's nothing like it—seeing the work turn into something amazing. It's what makes this industry so intoxicating. I hope you get to see it firsthand, A2.

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GRIFFIN REAMES

Life Out Front

Leisure meets adventure on Ann Arbor's front porches.

by Vickie Elmer

CARON VALENTINE-MARSH

GRIFFIN REAMES

Though usually tranquil, porches aren't immune to strange events. Kris Meves (above, with husband Eric) was once mooned on their Burns Park porch. Eric Firstenberg and Scott Spector (left, with their dog, Pye) had to rebuild their porch on Fountain after a drunk driver rammed it.

Eric and Kris Meves have been sitting on front porches in Ann Arbor for more than thirty years—first on the Old West Side, and now in Burns Park. "I nap out here," says Kris, sitting on her long porch on Cambridge near Washtenaw. Other times she reads the *New York Times* with a mug of coffee, or she savors a Blue Moon ale with Eric, watching for birds or neighbors who come by.

Before their nest emptied, they'd have family dinners on the porch. On Sundays "our kids had friends over—they would gather out here, with candles and drinks," recalls Kris. One summer, son Scott ran an online business off their 100-year-old porch.

In Ann Arbor, the front porch is a multipurpose room with a view. Half private, half public, the sheltered space between the home and the street is used for romancing, relaxing, reconnecting, and reinvention. While the front porch swing remains a staple, nice outdoor furniture is also common—some of it so attractive it's tied down to prevent theft. Plentiful plants—geraniums and herbs, aloe vera and begonias, even some tomatoes in pots and small trees—add color and coolness.

Porches star in family histories, pleasant memories of summers past and present—and some adventures and shockers.

Crime and conversation

Scott Spector remembers the time in 2002 when a drunk driver ran between two trees, drove over his lawn, and ended up smacking his front porch so hard that the foundation later had to be replaced. He and his partner, Eric Firstenberg, were not at home, but the driver made such a racket trying to back out that a neighbor came over and asked him to stop and wait for police.

Spector and Firstenberg, who live on Fountain near Hiscock, were relieved their dog, Pye, was not on the porch—he often sleeps there. They rebuilt, of course, and now the dog's dish sits on the new porch, his long leash attached to a column. Pye sits patiently beneath the plaid hammock where Eric works on his laptop, logged onto a distance learning class in statistics, as he looks to change careers.

Asked whether anything strange has happened on their porch, the Meveses each have a tale or two. "I was mooned late one night," says Kris, who retired early after years of conducting seminars on desktop publishing. It was the winter of 2000, and she heard a knock at the door. On the porch were several young men with their trousers down, facing away from her—and a comrade with a camera to capture her reaction.

Eric Meves tells of the time a groundhog grabbed a pillow off the love seat and tried to drag it under the porch. Squirrels too would loot the porch, tearing into cushions to get to the foam.

Yet for every adventure with drunk drivers or wild animals there are a hundred stories of relaxing, reading, or watching the fireflies or the rain. Front porches are favored for the joys of summer they bring—the sweet smell of honeysuckle and lilac and burgers on the neighbor's grill.

Brian Tomsic, a real estate broker and DJ, likes coffee in the morning and a cocktail in the evening on his porch on Spring Street. "It quickly became my headquarters in the summertime," he says. He added a ceiling fan and an array of plants, more than twenty pots in all, including two purple petunias. Some were rescued from rentals; a few were inherited from an ex-girlfriend.

"You get to know the neighborhood" as folks walk by, says Tomsic. "What's not to like?"

A block over on Fountain, Dan Kugler and his wife, Barb Einetti, bought a turn-of-the-century house without air-conditioning in 2000. For their first four years there, "we spent most of the summer out on the porch . . . because you couldn't be inside" in the heat, Dan recalls.

When they first moved in, Dan says, the porch looked out on a crack house. He watched "dope deals every ten minutes" and men urinating at the stop sign. Those days are gone, and now he sees mostly kids and neighbors—or raccoons and skunks later at night—from his porch steps.

Though the couple installed AC in 2004, they still use the porch; most days they're sitting on the steps watching their four-year-old and one-year old play with the array of tricycles, wagon, and kids in the yard. "We sit on the porch and hang out with the neighbors," Dan says, including a dozen children under six years old.

Many porches have those small cafe tables and two chairs—room enough for a sandwich or a drink but not for a full meal. Many others have strollers, tricycles, and car seats.

And many people say they've had items stolen from their porches: blankets, cigarettes, plants, chairs, bicycles. However, "we don't get a whole lot of reports of property stolen from front porches," says Adele El-Ayoubi, crime prevention specialist at the Ann Arbor Police Depart-

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Life Out Front

GRIFFIN REAMES

Jean Rennich cuts son Owen's hair on her Eberwhite porch. Sometimes passersby ask for a trim, too.

ment. The police more often get complaints when higher-priced lawn ornaments or holiday decorations are stolen.

Terra Henry-Fisher's porch on Felch just off North Main has an array of items on it—tiki torches, jump ropes, brooms, kid toys, empty beer bottles, a mop, a couple of books, flowers. She picked up the comfortable bamboo settee, some gnomes, and other items at garage sales. "It's my refuge," she says, used most of the summer unless the humidity drives her inside. She's lost some returnable bottles—taken, she thinks, by homeless people passing by. But a bigger loss was a leopard-skin-pattern sheet she used to cover a big papasan chair she'd found at the curb. One night it just vanished, she says. "It was my karma coming back," she admits, a little sheepishly. In high school, she and a friend stole an old table with a leopard-skin pattern off someone's porch.

Others report losing chairs, plants, and wicker furniture from their porches. The Meveses and some other families have invested in the cording restaurants use to secure their sidewalk tables. Kris says many of their losses happen during football games—she's guessing fans from another university take furniture when they need seating.

At Downtown Home & Garden, customers buy "lots of porch swings" and hanging baskets, as they have for decades, and also some newer-fangled items, says owner Mark Hodesh. Bells and chimes and hummingbird feeders show up, as do brightly colored outdoor rugs made of recycled plastic.

"I would have never thought it," Hodesh says of the interest in the rugs, which come in an array of colors from cranberry to teal and sell for $34 to $69 apiece. "The statement they're making is more fashionable."

These days it's common to find fashion accessories on porches—wreaths, metal hangings, bells, lights. A recent tour of

The couch question

The Ann Arbor Fire Department counts 112 fires from mid-2000 to mid-2008 that started on comfy couches or overstuffed chairs, including four in which the house was damaged or destroyed. Many were on porches or in yards. So city officials want to "find a safe solution" to keep flammable materials off porches, says fire marshal Kathleen Chamberlain.

In 2004 the city discussed banning couches from front porches, only to back off after students protested. Dale Winling, founder of the New West Side Association, a student-renter group, says he looked at fire inspection reports at the time and did not see "a significant public safety issue" to justify such "intrusive legislation."

But with fires continuing, the issue persists. Chamberlain plans to convene meetings with city council members, fire staff, and owners of student housing to look at solutions. Students' voices also need to be heard, says Chamberlain—who grew up in Ann Arbor and has a swing and lawn furniture on her own porch.

"Partiers are not careful with cigarettes and other assorted lighted objects," she says. "And some people are just plain firebugs" or looking to get even by setting a fire.

Winling is currently finishing his doctorate in architectural history by studying conflict among universities, home owners, and businesses. "I approach this with some skepticism," he says of the renewed focus on couches—to him, it seems to target students and detract from Ann Arbor's pedestrian-friendly "streetscape." The city, he suspects, mainly wants to "find a means of controlling student social life."

Not so, says Chamberlain. She says she'd also like to remove all barbecue grills from front porches and see them placed at least ten feet away from any building. "They're very dangerous on porches," says the former firefighter and fire inspector. But right now couches, not grills, lead the legal agenda.

—V.E.

Ann Arbor's front porches also turned up a television set, a roll-away bed, firewood, lingerie drying on a rack, and a large statue of a naked middle-aged woman.

Beer pong and barbering

During the school year, it's easy to find—and join—parties on porches around the U-M's Central Campus. The beer pong table is set up in the front yard, with the keg and cups on the porch.

More often, though, campus front porches sport sofas, or an array of bicycles locked to the railings or along the columns. And in warm weather, many students study on their porches, hauling out heavy textbooks and small laptops to enjoy the sunshine.

Lauren Altschuler's porch on East Ann is a great place to relax and watch people, whether they're the police cruising out from their City Hall headquarters across the street or students wandering by after class. Altschuler and her three roommates discuss literature and life there. For a while they also hosted meetings for a group they belong to, with fifteen or twenty people crammed onto the eight-by-twelve-foot porch.

A recent tour of local porches turned up a television set, a roll-away bed, firewood, lingerie drying on a rack, and a large statue of a naked middle-aged woman.

On a summer evening the four roommates are hanging out on the porch, drinking Bud Lights and red wine and chatting. They recall the night another roommate's cigarette set a bush nearby on fire, and the time a girl whom they kicked out of a party got so mad she picked up a chair from the porch and threw it through their window.

Mostly, though, the scene is mellower. "When I come back from classes and see people on the porch, it will brighten my day," says Altschuler—though the lure of relaxing out front can also delay starting papers or finishing class projects.

Romance on the front porch swing has a place in American culture and history, and a few local porch enthusiasts mention flirtations they started on summer nights on the porch. With stars and darkness and sweet smells to assist, romance seems a natural. But most couples we talked to have been together awhile; now, they say, it's a place more for hanging out than for harvesting kisses.

A few entrepreneurial types sell things—golf balls, honey, plants—from their front porches. And Scott Meves remembers the summer he and two friends started their online business, eatblue.com, from his parents' front porch on Cambridge.

"We spent a lot of days and evenings on the porch, partly because we had nowhere else to go (a real 'office' was a bit out of our reach) and partly, I think, because it was part of our 'corporate culture,'" he writes. "We didn't take ourselves that seriously."

They sat in the wicker chairs with their laptops and went online using his parents' Wi-Fi. Their file system was a portable blue box of hanging folders. Later on they expanded into a trailer parked in the driveway, scraping off the paint to give it that classic metal Airstream look.

"Being on the porch was relaxing, and it also kept us closer together," Scott recalls. "Sitting outside with your best friends on a summer day . . . we wouldn't really goof off, but I wouldn't say we were superproductive either. That was okay with us; we wanted to have fun while working, and this was exactly the way to do it." The company is still in business, but Scott is now in Brooklyn, New York, working for a web developer there.

Jean and Patrick Rennich's attractive yellow home on Eberwhite Boulevard is framed by a long porch with a white wrought-iron Welcome sign. In December they decorate the porch with old-fashioned colored bulbs. These days pink geraniums smile at visitors, and a toy box and a kid-size pool table sit on one end.

The Rennichs and their children eat dinner on their porch three or four nights a week, sometimes waving to the family across the street who also are dining alfresco. Daughter Emily (EmJ) and son Owen started out eating in high chairs and a baby swing on the porch, later moving up to a kids' picnic table. Now, at seven and five and a half, EmJ and Owen sit with their parents around a long white table. "We use the ledges a lot, as a buffet," says Jean.

And when it's time for family haircuts, she lays out her combs, clippers, and other implements on a ledge and brings out the old high chair. She lets her children hold the spray bottle and sometimes has to tell them to "look at the blue door" or "look at the little tree" so they won't turn their heads as dogs and people pass by.

"A ton of neighbors walk by," she says. Sometimes they ask whether she'll cut their kids' hair. Sometimes they comment on the cuts. Sometimes they just wave and say hello.

Not everyone is comfortable living so publicly, of course. Some people say they find front porches too prominent, and women in particular may feel as if they're "on display." Others just don't want neighbors hearing them remind their daughter to use a napkin. They may belong in the backyard, on a patio or deck.

Elizabeth Phillips is among the backyard believers. When she moved to Ann Arbor from southern California a year ago, she wanted a home with "a traditional front porch . . . the quaint Midwest house," she said. She got halfway there, ending up in a home on Granger with an add-on uncovered porch—only to realize "I'm more of a private person." So she and her children eat and barbecue and play out back on the deck or the second-floor porch.

Even so, front porches still appeal. Phillips admits that when she walks around her Burns Park neighborhood, "I've got front porch envy. . . . I like the look of that kind of house." ■

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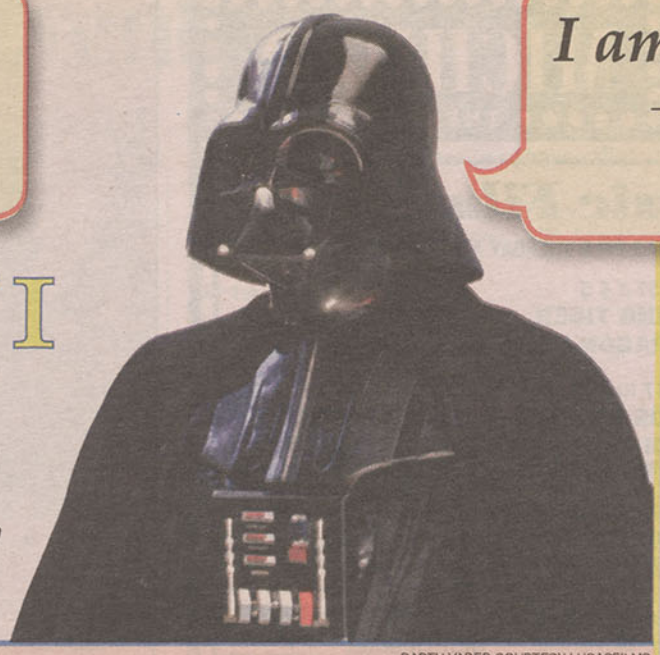
Quotable Alumni

The wit and wisdom of U-M grads

A steady stream of students passes through the University of Michigan. Many go on to fame as writers and other artists, scientists and technologists, politicians, and sports figures. These quotes from U-M alumni, drawn from my recently published book, The Yale Book of Quotations, *illustrate their impact on culture and history.*

by Fred R. Shapiro



DARTH VADER COURTESY LUCASFILMS

I am your father.

—Spoken by **James Earl Jones** '55, screenplay cowritten by **Lawrence Kasdan** '70, M.A. '72, *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980)

Literature and journalism

Every journalist who is not too stupid or too full of himself to notice what is going on knows that what he does is morally indefensible. He is a kind of confidence man, preying on people's vanity, ignorance, or loneliness, gaining their trust and betraying them without remorse.

—**Janet Malcolm** '55, *The Journalist and the Murderer* (1990)

There's a tree that grows in Brooklyn. Some people call it the Tree of Heaven. No matter where its seed falls, it makes a tree which struggles to reach the sky.

—**Betty Smith** (attended 1921–1922, 1927, 1931), *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1943)

Over this damp grave I speak the words of my love:
I, with no rights in this matter,
Neither father nor lover.

—**Theodore Roethke** '29, "Elegy for Jane" (1953)

What did I know
Of love's austere and lonely offices?

—**Robert Hayden,** M.A. '44, "Those Winter Sundays" (1962)

The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.

—**Marge Piercy** '57, "To Be of Use" (1973)

The United States of America believes this man is Santa Claus. This court will not dispute it—case dismissed!

—**Valentine Davies** '27, writer, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)

A salesman has got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

—**Arthur Miller** '38, *Death of a Salesman* (1949)

Films

Whenever I despair, I remember that the way of truth and love has always won. There may be tyrants and murderers, and, for a time, they may seem invincible, but in the end, they always fail. Think of it: always.

—**John Briley** '51, M.A. '52, screenwriter, *Gandhi* (1982)

What we've got here is failure to communicate.

—Spoken by **Strother Martin** '47, *Cool Hand Luke* (1967)

We rob banks.

—**David Newman** '58, M.A. '59, coscreenwriter, *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967)

COURTESY MOVIEWALLPAPERS.NET

Miscellaneous but memorable

A specialist is a man who knows more and more about less and less.

—**William J. Mayo,** M.D. 1883, cofounder of the Mayo Clinic, quoted in *Reader's Digest*, November 1927

COURTESY OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Luck is the residue of design.

—**Branch Rickey,** LL.B. '11, the manager who integrated Major League Baseball, quoted in *Sporting News*, February 21, 1946

Politics, law, and activism

About 2:11 a.m. the nomination [will] be settled by fifteen or twenty tired men sitting around a table in a smoke-filled room behind locked doors.

—**Harry M. Daugherty,** LL.B. 1880, quoted in a speech by Leonard Wood, April 1, 1920

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become president. I'm beginning to believe it.

—**Clarence Darrow** (attended Law School 1877–1878), quoted in Irving Stone, *Clarence Darrow for the Defense* (1941)

We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit.

—**Tom Hayden** '60, "The Port Huron Statement of the Students for a Democratic Society" (1962)

I am a Ford, not a Lincoln.

—**Gerald R. Ford** on taking the vice-presidential oath, December 6, 1973

COURTESY GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

If the government is big enough to give you everything you want, it is big enough to take away everything you have.

—**Gerald R. Ford** '35, quoted in John F. Parker, *If Elected, I Promise* (1960)

Music

Ain't she sweet?
See her coming down the street!
Now I ask you very confidentially,
Ain't she sweet?

—**Jack Yellen** '13, "Ain't She Sweet?" (1927)

Happy days are here again!
The skies above are clear again.
Let us sing a song of cheer again,
Happy days are here again!

—**Yellen,** "Happy Days Are Here Again" (1929)

I always thought of losing my virginity as a career move.

—**Madonna** (attended 1976–1978), quoted in Christopher Andersen, *Madonna Unauthorized* (1991)

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AUGUST 24 & 26
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AUGUST 31 & SEPT 2
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SUNDAY, FEB. 15 1:30 PM
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 1:30 PM
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For registration information or to make a donation, visit the Ann Arbor Rotary website **at www.annarborrotary.org**

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Two Special Concerts
Tuesday & Wednesday, July 29 & 30 at 7:30
Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor
Free Admission

August Events

Danit Brown, Aug. 6

Paul Keller, Aug. 19

FILMS

40 **Film Screenings** — *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

GALLERIES

47 **Exhibit Openings** — *Katie Whitney*

47 **Gallery Review**
A Place at the Table — *Katie Whitney*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

59 **Nightspots Schedule** — *John Hinchey*

60 **Nightspots Review**
The Ultrasounds — *Katie Whitney*

EVENTS REVIEWS

43 **John Sebastian and Roger McGuinn**
Daydreaming boys — *James Leonard*

50 ***Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid***
Jeff Daniels goes west — *Sally Mitani*

55 **Dana Cooper**
Songs of experience — *James M. Manheim*

88 **Events at a Glance**

Matthew Ardizzone, Aug. 24

Kevin Meisel, Aug. 29

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 FRIDAY

★**Youth Show: Washtenaw County 4-H.** *July 27–August 1.* Six days of animal competitions and auctions, plus crafts, exhibits, and contests. For a complete schedule, see washtenawfarmcouncil.org/Washtenaw_county_4.htm. *8 a.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 429–3145.*

★**"Huron River Bike Trail Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Slow-paced ride, 13 miles or more, along the Huron River from Bandemer Park to Parker Mill, along with some alternate routes. *9 a.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 663–4498.*

★**Writing Groups: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors invited to read and discuss the poetry, essays, reminiscences, and fiction they have written. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *10–10:30 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Kids Programs: Waterloo Recreation Area.** *Every Wednesday–Saturday through August 9.* Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents a variety of nature programs and activities TBA for kids ages 7–12 accompanied by an adult. *11 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. $6 vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday & Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for

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Dixboro Fair
August 2, 2008
10AM to 6PM

On the village green at Dixboro Methodist Church in Dixboro on Plymouth Rd. at Short St.

- Delicious food... fresh corn on the cob, hot dogs and sausages
- Ice cream, homemade pies and more
- 45 Juried Artists under the tent
- Silent auction
- Musical entertainment all day... Featuring Mr. G at 1PM
- Barnyard petting animals
- Games for all ages

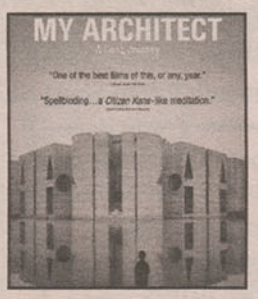
Colors the Clown
and her
Magic Animal Show
10:00 AM

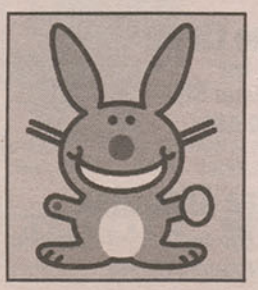
Free Admission

Parking: *Huron Valley Tennis Club, Cherry Hill Rd.*

Proceeds to benefit the **Humane Society of Huron Valley** and **Habitat for Humanity**

August 2008 Event Highlights
Ann Arbor District Library





All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Friday **1**
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Quinceañera Family Cultural Open House • Learn about the Quinceañera tradition! Co-presented by the Southwest Detroit youth group, Expressions

Wednesday **6**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
America Fights Back: The Byrds, The Spoonful and the End of English Domination presented by music expert **Jim Leonard**

Thursday **7**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Book conservator **Julia Miller** discusses **Historical Book Binding/Fine Binding: Extra Work, Extra Results**

Saturday **9**
12:00 - 5:00 pm
AADL-GT Smash Kart: Round 1
The season begins! • **Grades 6-12**

Monday **11**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Common Myths About China discussed by business development executive **Warren K. Liu,** author of ***KFC in China: Secret Recipe for Success***

Thursday **14**
10:00 - 10:45 am
Charity Nebbe (and her dog!) of Michigan Radio reads from her new picture book, ***Our Walk In The Woods***
Preschool - Grade 5 • Pittsfield Branch

Thursday **14**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
When Should I Retire? A Social Security Update presented by **Jo Anne Ashenden** of the Social Security Administration

Saturday **16**
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Jump Up, Double-Dutch!
Bring your ropes, your rhymes, and be ready for good times
Grades 6-12 • Malletts Creek Branch Parking Lot

Sunday **17**
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Chesstastic for All Ages
Pittsfield Branch

Tuesday **19**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Concert: The Paul Keller Ensemble performs Keller's new **Michigan Jazz Suite**

Wednesday **20**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Joan DuMouchelle Walker of **DuMouchelle's Art Gallery and Auctioneers** discusses and informally appraises local treasures

Thursday **21**
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Film: *My Architect* (NOT RATED) • Academy Award-nominated documentary • Downtown Library 4th Floor Meeting Room

Sunday **24**
2:00 - 3:30 pm
The Good, the Bad and the Alien: Science fiction writers **Tobias Buckell**, **John Scalzi** and **Karl Schroeder** discuss their work

Tuesday **26**
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Dear Dumb Diary: Author Jim Benton Visits AADL
Grades K-5 • Registration required: 327.8301

Tuesday **26**
7:00 - 8:00 pm
It's Happy Bunny with Author Jim Benton
Grade 6-adult

Wednesday **27**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Building a Green Life: Make Your Own Earth-Friendly Cleaning Products • Jason Bing of Recycle Ann Arbor shows you how
Malletts Creek Branch

Thursday **28**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Kerrytown BookFest Reception
All are welcome!

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

1 FRIDAY *continued*

toddlers. Also, raffle. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. *Every Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17–bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown. Free. 369–3107.*

★"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio. *June 1–October 31.* Musical entertainment by a variety of local performers TBA. *Noon–2 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 665–8001.*

"The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather"/"The Sky Tonight"/"Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Monday–Friday. The Zula Patrol* (12:30 p.m.) is an animated audiovisual exploration of weather, both terrestrial and interplanetary. *The Sky Tonight* (1:30 & 3:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Black Holes* (2:30 p.m.) is an animated audiovisual show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. *Note:* For weekend planetarium shows, see 2 Saturday listing). *12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Friday.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"Dexter DQ Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Friday.* Slow-paced 26-mile ride to the Dexter Dairy Queen for a snack. *6 p.m., Abbot School, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off Maple 1 block south of Miller). Free. 662–0205.*

Magic: the Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Friday.* All invited to compete in a booster draft tournament of this popular collectible card game. Bring your own cards. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $15 (includes cards). 786–3746.*

★"Quinceanera Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. Family-oriented program featuring the traditional Hispanic celebration of a girl's 15th birthday. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★Summer Concert Series: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce Summer Series. *August 1, 15, & 22.* Entertainment on 2 stages in downtown Dexter. For weekly schedule, see dexterchamber.org. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Monument Park gazebo & in front of the clock tower, downtown Dexter. Free. 426–0887.*

★"Summer Music Series": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. *August 1, 2, & 15.* A series of concerts in downtown Saline. For a complete schedule, see salinechamber.com. *6:30–8 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

★Crossroads Summer Festival. *Every Friday, June 6–September 12.* Weekly outdoor stage in downtown Ypsilanti with a variety of dance bands. (In case of rain, held in Club Devine, 25 North Washington.) Weekly schedules available at ypsicrossroads.org. *7–10 p.m., Washington St. at Michigan Ave. Free. 717–7305.*

★Daniel Silva: Nicola's Books. This best-selling novelist discusses and/or reads from ***Moscow Rules,*** his new novel, the 8th in the Gabriel Allon series, about a U.S. spy who must stop a Russian arms dealer from delivering weapons to Al-Qaeda. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *August 1, 15, & 29.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 2. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

★Lughnasadh Festival: Shining Lakes Grove. *August 1–3.* All invited to join local pagans for a festival honoring the Celtic sun god Lugh. Activities include presentations, crafts, workshops, rituals, and more.

Participants may camp at the site. *8–11 p.m. (Aug. 1), 1–11 p.m. (Aug. 2), & 1–6 p.m. (Aug. 3), Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. Free. 262–1052.*

"Honk!": Dexter Community Players. *July 25–27 & July 31–August 2.* Brendan Bachman directs young local actors in George Stiles and Anthony Drewe's musical adaptation of "The Ugly Duckling." Stars Spencer Michaud, Jenn Smith, and Caleb Mackinder. *8 p.m., Dexter High School Copeland Auditorium, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Tickets $15 in advance at dextercommunityplayers.com & $18 at the door. 424–4100.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday, June 19–August 30 (except August 6), and August 5 & 26. See review, p. 50.* Guy Sanville directs Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels's new comedy, the tale of a showdown between 2 Wild West archetypes—a singing cowboy a la Roy Rogers and a scoundrelly outlaw. Thrown together by unfortunate circumstances, they argue over the best way to be a cowboy, while 2 other actors portray their reminiscences. Cast: John Seibert, Tom Whalen, Phil Powers, and Jessica Garrett. *8 p.m., Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Sun. eves., Wed. & Thurs.), $33 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $38 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

Ryan Belleville: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 1 & 2.* Ann Arbor debut of this young L.A. comic known for his fast-paced, lighthearted, and very funny observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $11 reserved seating in advance, $13 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Friday Night Swing: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Friday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons; students, $3). 972–9141.*

★"From Twilight till Dawn: A Night with Bite": Waters Place Borders. Parties to celebrate the release of ***Breaking Dawn,*** the 4th novel in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series, which goes on sale at midnight. Includes homemade T-shirt and costume contests (come in costume if you like), trivia games, and more. Similar parties are held simultaneously at Arborland Borders, Borders downtown, and Borders Express in Briarwood. *9:30 p.m.–midnight, Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

2 SATURDAY

★"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. *6:28 a.m. (Aug. 2), 6:35 a.m. (Aug. 9). 6:43 a.m. (Aug. 16), 6:50 a.m. (Aug. 23), & 6:57 a.m. (Aug. 30), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–6327, 913–9851.*

Bird Hike: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a morning hike to look for birds in a variety of habitats and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *7:30 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (30 to 80 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. After the bakery stop, a fast/moderate-paced **swim extension ride** (40 to 60 miles) continues to Silver Lake for a swim. Also, a slow-paced 8-mile **prebreakfast ride** to Zingerman's for coffee & conversation leaves 842 Greenhills Drive at 7 a.m., with a noon return. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. For a schedule of AABTS rides that begin outside Ann Arbor, see aabts.org. *8 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St., or at Barton Park, Huron River Dr. Free. For information, call 769–1025 (Aug. 2), 662–0205 (Aug. 9), 761–9894 (Aug. 16), 996–9461 (Aug. 23), 996–4985 (Aug. 30), 971–1065 (swim extension), & 775–1156 (prebreakfast ride).*

★"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *August 2, 9, & 23 (different locations).* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear pants and closed-toe shoes. Followed by short nature walks. Today: help remove invasive herbaceous plants at **Barton Nature Area.** *9 a.m.–noon, meet in the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Dr. at Bird Rd. from Newport Rd. (Huron River Dr. is under construction between Main and Bird rds.). Free. 996–3266.*

"Sciencepalooza": Hands-On Museum. *August 2 & 3.* A popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area with hands-on experiments and activities. This month's program: **"Country Fair."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Aug. 2) & noon–4 p.m. (Aug. 3), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants, free) regular admission. 995–5439.*

★31st Annual Dixboro Fair: Dixboro United Methodist Church. This community fair features the popular barnyard petting zoo, a silent auction, tours of the Dixboro UMC, old-fashioned games, kids games, homemade cakes and pies, live music, and more. Also, the annual **"Artisans on the Green,"** a juried arts and crafts show of award-winning Michigan artisans, with paintings, jewelry, woodworking, dolls, ceramics, baskets, clothing, garden art, quilting, glass, textiles, florals, and much more. Entertainment includes animal magic by **Colors the Clown** (10–11 a.m.), bluegrass by the **Traver Creek Ramblers** (10 a.m.), barbershop music by the **Cherry Hill Quartet** (11 a.m.), kids music by **Mr. G** (noon), Christian rock by **New Creatures** (1 p.m.) and **All for Him** (2 p.m.), gospel by the **Cass Community Church choir** (3 p.m.), and Christian rock by Dixboro UMC's **Joyful Noise** praise band (4 p.m.). *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Rd. at Cherry Hill Rd. (2 miles east of US-23). Free admission. 665–5632.*

7th Annual Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival. This traditional-music festival begins at 10 a.m. with an **"Old Time Fiddle Contest"** for 3 age divisions (12 & under, 13–17, and 18 & over), with finals at 2 p.m. Performers include San Francisco pop-rock singer-songwriter **Vienna Teng** (8 p.m.) and **Corey Ledet & His Zydeco Band** (4 & 10:45 p.m.), a Louisiana zydeco dance band. Also, folk duo **Gemini** (12:30 & 4 p.m.), acoustic country quartet **Bill Bynum & Company** (1:30 p.m.), pop-folk singer-songwriter **Billy King** (3 p.m.), the local Cuban jazz ensemble **Tumbao Bravo** (1 & 4:15 p.m.), veteran Detroit folk-style singer-songwriter **Jan Krist** (6 p.m.), the Manchester newgrass, western swing, and old-time jug-band **The Raisin Pickers** (7 p.m.), and the New York–based Celtic rock and bagpipe band **MacTalla Mor** (3 & 9:30 p.m.). Also, an **art fair** with many local artists, puppet shows by the traveling theater troupe **Catskill Puppet Theater** (2:30, 5:30, & 9 p.m.), a boisterous **kids' parade** (5 p.m.), and a large "Healthy Kids" tent, featuring crafts, music, and Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum activities. *10 a.m.–midnight, Carr Park (W. Main St. west of M-52), Manchester. Tickets $10 in advance at riverfolkfestival.org & $12 at the door (kids 12 & under, free). 428–7716.*

★Warhammer/Warmachine Open Play: Get Your Game On. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play these 2 tactical miniatures board games. Also, at 1 p.m., **Magic: the Gathering tournaments** ($5; bring your own cards) using a standard constructed deck and a format TBA at getyourgameonline.com, and demos of some of the store's board games. *11 a.m.–10 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Saturday.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Origins of Life"/"Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday. The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Black Holes* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays) is an animated audiovisual show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. *Origins of Life* (2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the prebiotic chemistry of the Universe after the Big Bang, the formation of the stars and solar systems, the first life on Earth, the great extinctions, and the search for extraterrestrial life. *Note:* For weekday planetarium shows, see 1 Friday listing. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

★Children's Storytime: Waters Place Borders. *Every Wednesday and Saturday.* Borders staff read from picture books and books for babies, infants, and toddlers. *Noon (Sat.) & 10 a.m. (Wed.), Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

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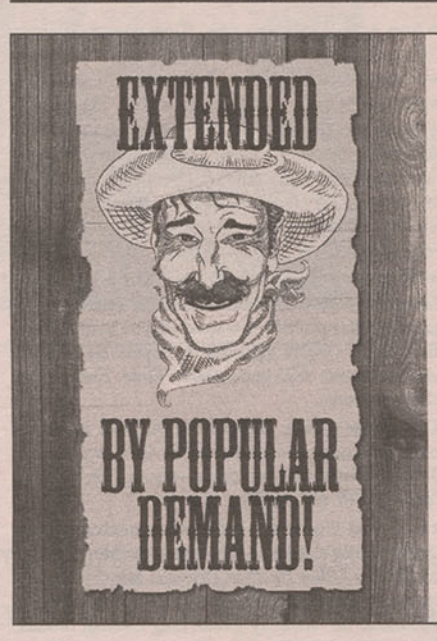

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★"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Friday. Today: local lounge rock quartet **Sounds of the Czars.** Noon–2 p.m.

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

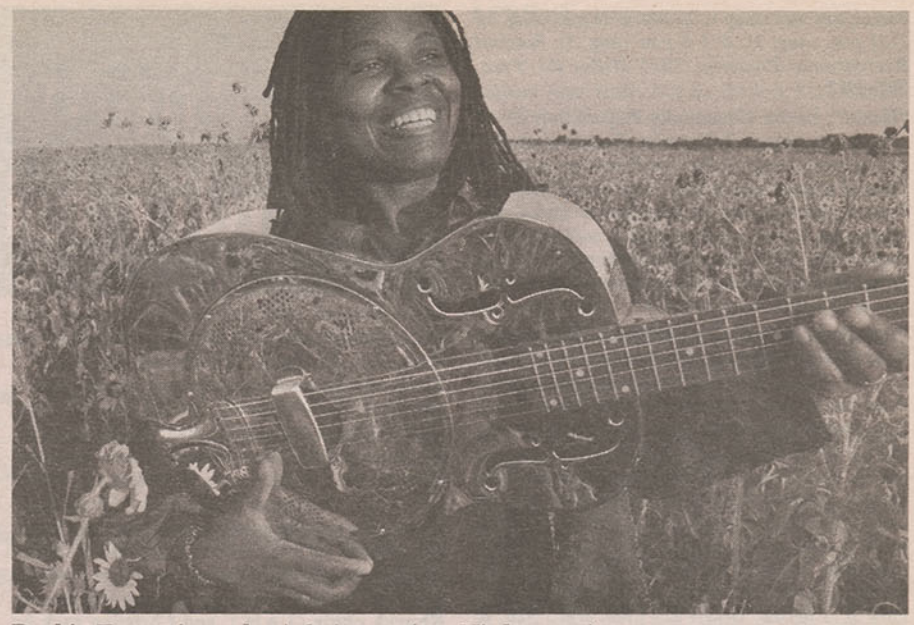
★Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate. *Every Saturday (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *2:30 p.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

★In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion of ***The Other Brother,*** Brandon Massey's supernatural thriller about an up-and-coming businessman who meets his strangely gifted, long lost half brother. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Children's Movie: Arborland Borders. *Every Saturday.* Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*



Ruthie Foster is at the Ark Aug. 7 (see Nightspots).

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Contras with callers TBA to music by Tom Allen and friends. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Honk!": Dexter Community Players. See 1 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Ryan Belleville: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. *August 2, 9, & 30.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. *August 2 & 29.* All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance

films

Note: Educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually more than once each, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $7; MTF members, $6.50). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted. *Aug. 1:* **"The Wackness"** (Jonathan Levine, 2008). *July 25–Aug. 1.* Comedy set in 1994 New York City about a high school pot dealer who befriends his pot-smoking psychologist. Josh Peck, Ben Kingsley. *Aug. 1–8:* **"Tell No One"** (Guillaume Canet, 2006). Thriller about a man who gets an email from his wife 8 years after she was murdered. French, subtitles. *Aug. 1–14:* **"Brideshead Revisited"** (Julian Jarrold, 2008). Drama based on Evelyn Waugh's 1945 novel about a doomed love affair between an Oxford student and a young aristocratic Catholic woman. *Aug. 3 & 5:* **"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"** (Ang Lee, 2000). Exhilarating, action-packed saga of a female warrior and a male martial arts master on a quest to recover a legendary sword. Mandarin, subtitles. *Aug. 9:* **End-of-Camp Screening.** Films by students of the Michigan Theater Young Filmmakers Camp. FREE. 1 p.m. *Aug. 9–14:* **"The Last Mistress"** (Catherine Breillat, 2007). Drama about the scandal surrounding the impending marriage of a dissolute young man to a virtuous aristocratic woman. French, subtitles. *Aug. 10 & 12:* **"Dial M for Murder"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954). Classic thriller, shown in 3-D. Ray Milland, Grace Kelly. *Aug. 14:* **"Murder City: Detroit, 100 Years of Crime and Violence"** (Al Profit, 2008). Documentary about Detroit's history of violence and its portrayal in the media. 7 p.m. *Aug. 16–21:* **"Bab'Aziz: The Prince Who Contemplated His Soul"** (Nacer Khemir, 2005). Drama about a blind dervish and his spirited granddaughter who travel through the desert in search of a great dervish reunion. Arabic, Persian; subtitles. *Aug. 17 & 19:* **"Easy Rider"** (Dennis Hopper, 1969). Classic counterculture road movie about 2 biker burnouts who set out to find America. Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper, Jack Nicholson. *Aug. 22–28:* **"Man on Wire"** (James Marsh, 2008). Documentary about Philippe Petit's illegal 1974 high-wire routine performed between the twin towers of the World Trade Center. **"Elegy"** (Isabel Coixet, 2008). Drama about the romance between a celebrated college professor and his beautiful young student. Ben Kingsley, Penelope Cruz. *Aug. 24 & 26:* **"Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid"** (Carl Reiner, 1982). Film noir parody starring Steve Martin as a detective who runs into noir stars of the past as he solves a murder mystery. *Aug. 29–31:* **"Up the Yangtze"** (Yung Chang, 2007). Documentary about the biggest hydroelectric dam in history and the changes it holds for the culture surrounding a Chinese river. *Aug. 31 & Sept. 2:* **"Battleship Potemkin"** (Sergei Eisenstein, 1925). Landmark silent film about the 1905 Russian Revolution that in 1958 was voted by film historians as the best film ever made. Live accompaniment on the Barton Theater organ by Michigan Theater organist Steven Ball.

Docu Fest. Screening of a different documentary film every Tuesday. FREE. 662–5414. Dominick's (2nd floor), 812 Monroe, 7 p.m. *Aug. 5:* **"Weapons of Mass Deception"** (Danny Schechter, 2005). Documentary about the role of government-fed media cheerleading in enabling the Iraq War. *Aug. 12:* **"Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room"** (Alex Gibney, 2005). Documentary based on *Fortune* reporters Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind's book about the epic Enron collapse. *Aug. 19:* **"What Would Jesus Buy"** (Ron VanAlkemade, 2007). Documentary about excessive consumerism presented through a performance artist who with his activist cohort go around as Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping choir preaching against shopping and singing anticorporate songs. *Aug. 26:* No film.

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Sunday Night Movie & Dinner" with dinner (salad, entree, & dessert) followed by screening of a classic or contemporary movie. Menu items range from $5 to $30. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. *Aug. 3:* ***Stand by Me*** (Rob Reiner, 1986). Coming-of-age adventure-drama, set in 1959 Oregon, about friendship among a group of boys traipsing through the woods when they stumble across the dead body of a boy about their age. *Aug. 10:* ***Can't Hardly Wait*** (Harry Elfont & Deborah Kaplan, 1998). Teen romantic comedy set during a graduation party. Jennifer Love Hewitt, Ethan Embry, Seth Green. *Aug. 17:* ***Grandma's Boy*** (Nicholaus Goossen, 2006). Comedy about a video game tester with an aimless personal life. Adam Sandler. *Aug. 24:* ***Ferris Bueller's Day Off*** (John Hughes, 1986). Comedy about a mischievous teen's adventures when he skips school. Matthew Broderick. *Aug. 31:* ***The Breakfast Club*** (John Hughes, 1985). Comedy about a wildly heterogeneous mix of 5 teens who spend a Saturday together in detention.

U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Summer Chills: Japanese Horror Films." This summer's film series explores classic and contemporary Japanese horror films. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 764–6307. Lorch Hall auditorium (Tappan at Monroe), 7 p.m. *Aug. 1:* ***Kwaidan*** (Masaki Kobayashi, 1964). A beautiful set of 4 short films based on ghost stories by the 19th-century writer Lafcadio Hearn. Subjects range from a woodcutter who meets an icy spirit while stranded in a snowstorm to a blind musician who must perform before a ghostly imperial court. *Aug. 8:* ***Jigoku*** (Nobuo Nakagawa, 1960), which translates as *Hell,* tells the story of a grad student's life after he hits a man with his car and leaves the scene of the accident. *Aug. 15:* ***Sakebi*** (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2006) is the story of a homicide detective, haunted by a ghost in a red dress, whose current case turns up clues all relating to himself. *Aug. 22:* ***Audition*** (Takashi Miike, 1999) is about a widower who scopes out new wives by screening actresses for a nonexistent movie, but the one he chooses to date is frighteningly different from the way she appeared.

WCBN-FM. 763–3500. *Aug. 12:* **"The Filth and the Fury"** (Julien Temple, 2000). Electrifying documentary about the rise and decline of the Sex Pistols in the context of 70s Britain. FREE admission. Live at PJ's (102 S. First), 9 p.m. *Aug. 21:* **"The Upsetter"** (Ethan Higbee & Adam Bhala Lough, 2008). Documentary about the 72-year-old Jamaican reggae and dub pioneer Lee "Scratch" Perry. $10 (students & seniors, $8). Michigan Theater, 7 p.m.

music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

3 SUNDAY

★**Marathon Training Run: Tortoise and Hare.** 10- and 20-mile training runs over a well-marked course, with aid stations along the way. Postrun refreshments. *8 a.m., Tortoise and Hare, 2631 Plymouth Rd. Free. 623–9640.*

★**Falun Gong.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

★**"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube."** *Every Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning and advanced practitioners. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 761–5204.*

★**Wamplers Lake Swim Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 80-mile ride to Wamplers Lake for a swim and lunch. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–0730.*

★**"A Summer Visit to the Beech Trees": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through the preserve. *10 a.m.–noon, Kosch-Headwaters Preserve, 3268 N. Prospect Rd., Ypsilanti (¼ mile south of Ford Rd.). Free. 971–6337.*

23rd Annual Exotic Bird Exhibition: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Display of live exotic birds from around the world, with sales of birds and bird-related items. Veterinarians and other experts are on hand to answer questions. Also, Animal Kingdom Veterinary Hospital veterinarian Steve Marsh discusses **"The Northern European Eagle Owl."** Informational displays by representatives from various national avian organizations. Raffles. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Admission $3 (children under age 12, free). 662–4582.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to join a chanting meditation. *10–11 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**Meditation: Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** *Every Sunday.* Traktung Yeshe Dorje leads a silent sitting. *10:30 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sunday except August 31.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today: Kathleen Ivanoff discusses **"Choosing Life."** Also this month: Sandy Finkel on **"Life in Perpetual Motion"** (August 10), Gehlek Rimpoche on **"Compassion Begins with Me"** (August 17), and Hartmut Sagolla on **"Deconstructing Delusions"** (August 24). *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★**Fran Simon: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Talk by this noted spiritual teacher from Yellow Springs, Ohio. Followed at 12:30 p.m. by a potluck lunch; bring a dish to pass. *10:45 a.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free; donations accepted. 996–0702.*

Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live music TBA. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665–2009.*

"Herb Fest": Herb Study Group. This herb festival is highlighted by a talk by Renaissance Acres Organic Herb Farm owner Peter Stark. Also, a tour of the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens herb garden, an herb sale, and educational displays. Herbal refreshments. *Noon–3 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission $10 (Matthaei members, $8). 647–7600.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No

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PS: A "sneak preview" cocktail party, fundraiser, and art auction will be held on Friday evening (Aug 8th) from 7.30 to 10pm in support of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Care Center, with guest speaker Dr Diane Simeone, Program Leader for the Pancreatic Cancer Program. PLease call (734) 344-5209 to be placed on the waiting list Guests welcome as space allows.

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AUGUST 2008

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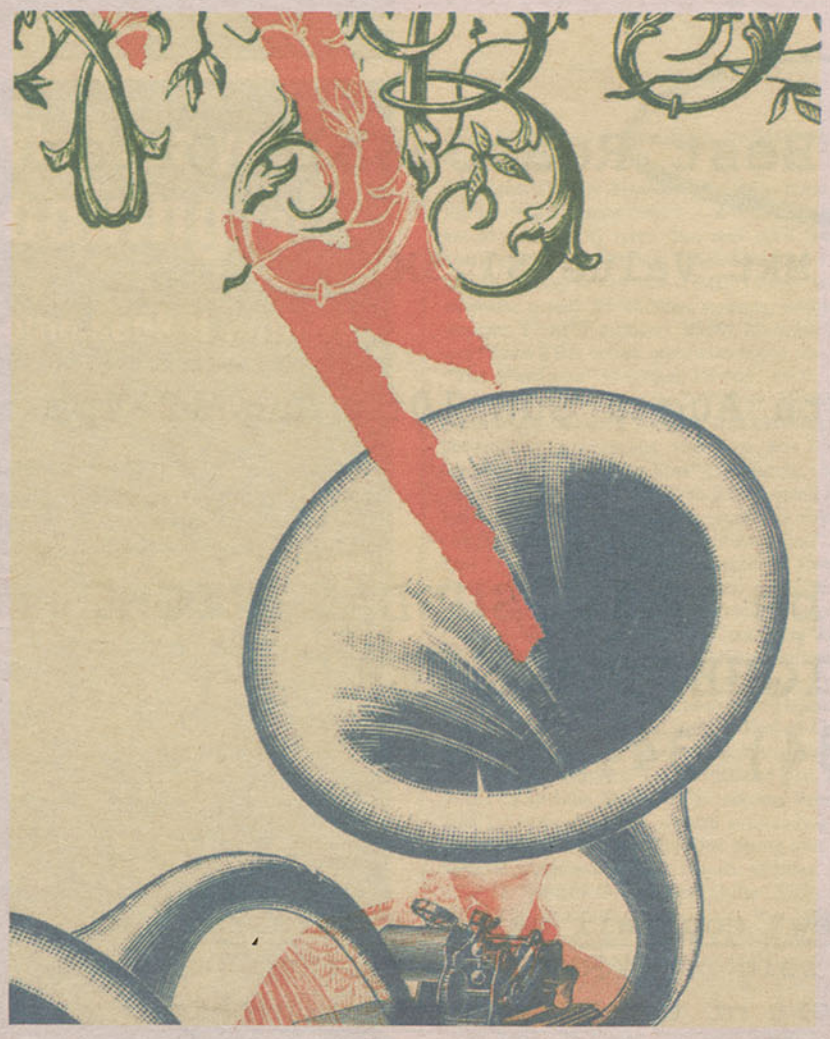
EXHIBITION: HYBRIDS AND HANDLEBARS: 5th Annual A&D Staff Show

Sculpture, painting, photography, video and more – creative work in all media by A&D's talented staff members.



{ Opening Reception at Work • Ann Arbor, August 15 6:00 - 9:00pm } Work • Ann Arbor 306 S. State

www.art-design.umich.edu

partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Sharon Mills Tours: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** *August 3, 17, & 24.* WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads 30-minute tours around this park on the River Raisin that features a newly operational hydroelectric generator, a beautiful multicolored stone house, a wooden mill, and a former winery, plus spots for fishing, canoeing, and picnicking. *1 & 3 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd. (between Pleasant Lake & Sharon Valley rds.), Manchester. Free. 971–6337.*

"Kids in Creek Stream Ecology": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. All kids invited to join Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck to collect and observe some of the large and small inhabitants of the Huron River ecosystem. Wear boots and be prepared to get your feet wet. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Rapid View area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Magic: the Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sunday, Monday, & Wednesday.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the block constructed (Mondays) and standard constructed (Wednesdays & Sundays) editions of this popular collectible card game. Bring your own cards. *1 p.m. (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5. 786–3746.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sunday & Thursday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"Kerry Tales: The Little Dog Laughed with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as "Mother Goose." *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Kerrytown. Free. 769–3115.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**Talk & Tour: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sunday.* A resident gives a short talk about Sunward Cohousing, which consists of condos designed to foster an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood and to preserve open space. Followed by a tour. *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. 663–5516.*

★**"Paul Outerbridge: Color Photographs from Mexico and California, the 1950s": U-M Museum of Art Off/Site.** *August 3, 10, 21, & 24.* Docent-led tours of the current UMMA exhibit. *2 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Thurs.), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday & occasional Saturdays.* The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer & pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. *3 p.m., location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at a2h3.org.*

"The Story of the Dragon and His Dinosaur Friends": Dreamland Theater. *August 3, 24, & 31.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents this tale of a dragon, tricked by Goldilocks, who decides to get his revenge with the help of some friends. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 and under, free). 657–2337.*

★**"The Fire Within": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of Richard Kane and Melody Kane's documentary about New York potter M. C. Richards. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., location TBA. In case of rain, under the Dental School overhang, 1011 North University. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

4 MONDAY

★**"Back Roads Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 12–35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to Independence Lake and other low-traffic destinations. *8 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Dr.), Barton Hills. Free. 761–2885, 663–5060.*

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Every Monday.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**"A Bevy of Butterflies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 4 & 12 (different branch locations).* All kids from preschoolers through 3rd-graders invited to make a butterfly craft. *10–11:30 a.m. (Aug. 4), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), & 2–3:30 p.m. (Aug. 12), AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Monday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"PokeMonday Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 4 & 11 (different branch locations).* All kids in grades K–5 invited to bring a Nintendo DS and a copy of Pokemon Diamond or Pearl to compete for prizes in a tournament. *1–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Aug. 4), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL multipurpose room (Aug. 11), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Paved Roads Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training rides, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. *6 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426–5116.*

★**"Smoothie King Recovery Ride": Ann Arbor Velo Club.** *Every Monday.* Cyclists invited to join club members on this moderate-paced ride, 15–20 miles, down Huron River Drive to Dexter and back. *6 p.m., meet at Smoothie King, 222 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 827–2792.*

★**Volleyball: Parents Without Partners.** *Every Monday.* All single parents invited for casual games of volleyball. *6:30 p.m.–dark, Buhr Park, 2751 Packard Rd. Free. 973–1933.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Monday.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. Also, at 7 p.m. on August 20, Australians Nouk Sanchez and Tomas Vieira, coauthors of *Take Me to Truth: Undoing the Ego,* discuss **"A Course in Miracles: Spiritual Awakening"** ($20). *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**"7 Mondays at 7" Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music.** *Every Monday, July 21–September 1.* Bring lawn chairs and a picnic to outdoor concerts at Burton Tower. Visitors can tour the tower after the concert. Tonight's performer: Washington, D.C., carillonist **John Lehrer.** *7 p.m., Burton Tower, Ingalls Mall. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Volleyball in the Park": Ann Arbor Ski Club.** *Every Monday.* All adults age 21 & older invited to join a volleyball game. All skill levels welcome. Postgame socializing at CUBS' AC. *7 p.m.–dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), Wells & Baldwin. Free. 973–2136.*

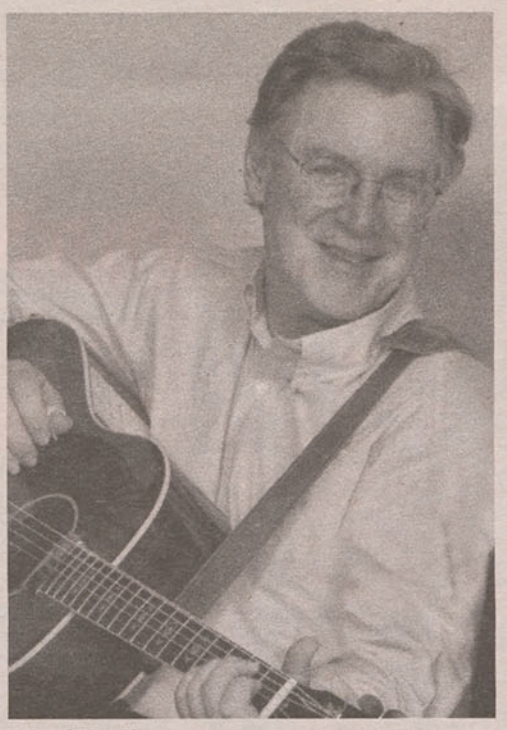
★**"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 12–18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. *7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 213–2908.*

★**"Manga Awards Ceremony": Ann Arbor District Library.** Announcement of the winners in various age divisions of the AADL manga drawing contest for kids in grades K–12. Beginning tonight, the winning entries are on display through the end of the month. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room youth department, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. *Every Monday.* A series of concerts by area organists. Followed by a reception. Today: U-M grad student organist **Michael Stefanek.** *7*

John Sebastian and Roger McGuinn

Daydreaming boys



John Sebastian.

Roger McGuinn and John Sebastian are playing back-to-back solo sets at the Michigan Theater on Friday, August 8. It's the hottest double bill of the summer: this is Roger McGuinn of the Byrds—"Mr. Tambourine Man," "Eight Miles High," "Turn! Turn! Turn!"—and John Sebastian of the Lovin' Spoonful—"Daydream," "Summer in the City," "Do You Believe in Magic?"

McGuinn's not sure what songs he's going to play: "My wife and I always work out the set list at lunch the day of the show. It'll be a mix: probably some tracks from the Byrds and some from my solo albums plus some traditional songs." Sebastian won't be sure until he gets onstage: "I know what I start with and I know what I end with, and other than that, I really don't know—some oldies, some Spoonful, some folk, maybe some jug band—those're always fun."

Of course, McGuinn'll be playing his trademark Rickenbacker twelve-string. "People want to see the Rickenbacker," he says, "though I always bring a Martin twelve-string, a Martin seven-string, and a banjo along, too." Sebastian says that in addition to some harmonica and a little autoharp, he'll be playing "a beautiful Heritage guitar from Kalamazoo and a baritone guitar that looks like a Telecaster but with a longer neck and thicker strings to give some of the songs a little extra bounce."

As always, McGuinn's on the road with his wife, Camilla, who also serves as tour manager and roadie: "We do about fifty to seventy-five dates a year. We drive a high-top van, and we'll go a great distance for a nice venue. She's wonderful." After a couple of gigs with McGuinn, Sebastian'll be doing a tour with mandolin master David Grisman. "We're going to be out there like a couple of teen boys," he giggles. "It's great!"

McGuinn and Sebastian have known each other for decades. "Roger and I have a friendship that goes all the way back to '63–'64, when we were single musicians," says Sebastian. "John and I used to play together in the Village," McGuinn explains, "and we still work together a lot. We never know who's going to open and who's going to close—though John likes to open." Sebastian laughs and concurs: "I do enjoy getting 'em fresh when I can."

McGuinn came to the Lord long ago, but he didn't give up rock 'n' roll: "Jesus says if you're a fisherman, stay a fisherman. And I don't preach from the stage. Some people feel led to do that, but I never got the memo."

Asked how he wrote so many great songs in such a short time, Sebastian replies, "Part of it was the audience. Once you're connected and you feel the tug, it's incredibly energizing. Part of it was the era. It was such a beautifully competitive time. When you've had success and you knew [Motown hitmakers] Holland-Dozier-Holland were breathing down your neck, well, it really motivated you."

—James Leonard

p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium. Donation. (313) 549–0840.

Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

Tim Flood: Kerrytown Concert House. This local avant-jazz bassist and programmer performs his experimental improvisations that combine computer technology with bass. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). 769–2999.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

5 TUESDAY

★**Primary Election.** There is a contested Democratic mayoral primary and contested council primaries in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th wards, as well as contested Democratic primaries for sheriff, drain commissioner, and 2 Ann Arbor county commission seats. *Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. If you are unsure about where to vote or need information about absentee ballots, call the county clerk at 994–2503.*

★**Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different locations).* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower), & 12:45–3:45 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Tuesday.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11:30 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Let's Build Something": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids from preschoolers through 3rd-graders invited to make something with craft sticks. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. Today's 8 p.m. show is sold out. 3 p.m.

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Rubberbandance Group
Family Performance

Farewell Tour
Guarneri String Quartet

Tord Gustavsen Trio

Gilgamesh
Kinan Azmeh clarinet
Kevork Mourad MaxMSP

Richard Goode piano

Chanticleer

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David Robertson conductor
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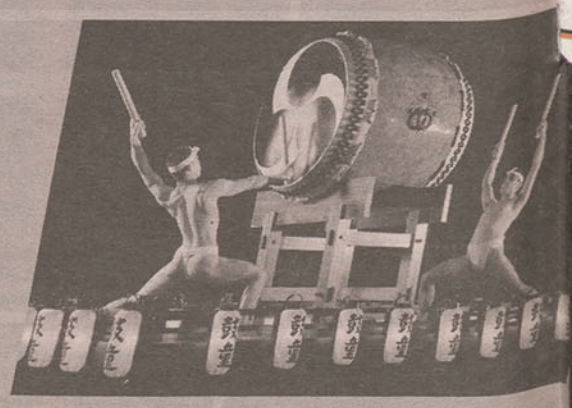

Tickets to individual performances begin Thursday, August 14 at 9 AM on www.ums.org. In-person sales begin Monday, August 18 at 10 AM.

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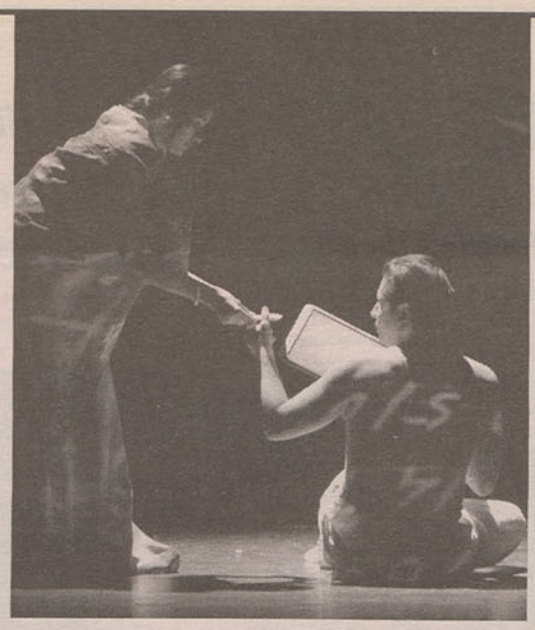

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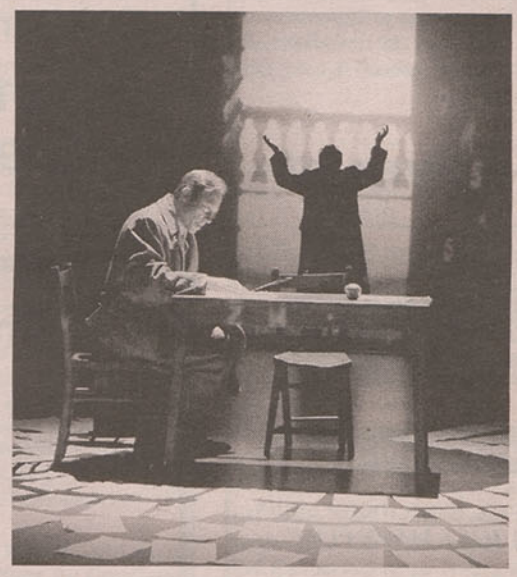

Individual performances are sponsored by
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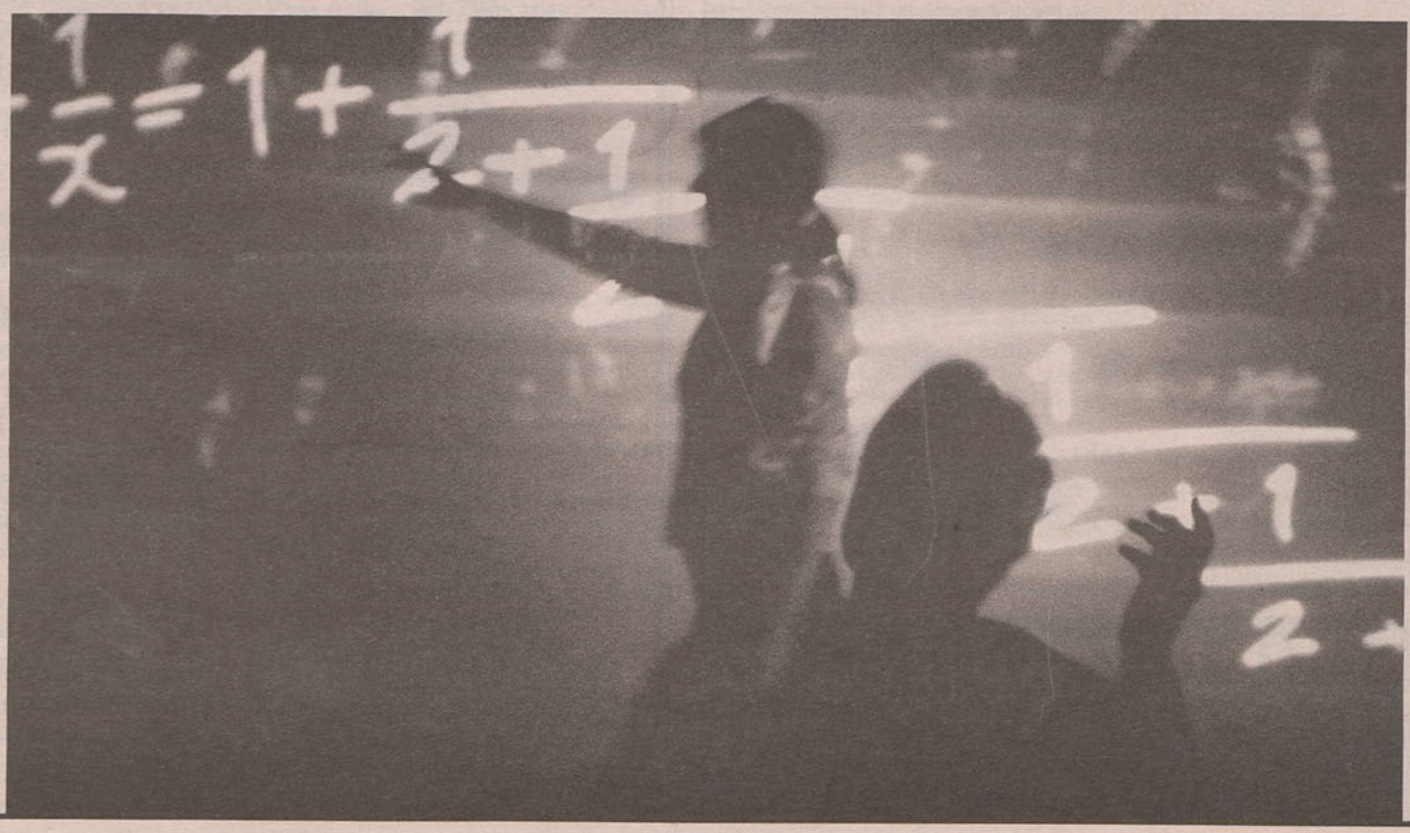
THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Michael Allemang and Janis Bobrin and **all of the participants of the 2002 RSC trip**

Made possible in part by the **U-M Institute for the Humanities.**

Funded in part by the **Wallace Endowment Fund.**

Additional promotional support provided by **Between the Lines** and **Ann Arbor's 107one.**



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galleries

A Place at the Table

Open seating for feminist art

There's nothing so blatantly vaginal as Judy Chicago's work in the current exhibition at the Ann Arbor Art Center, although it obviously refers to her controversial feminist masterpiece, *The Dinner Party*. Sponsored by the Michigan Women's Caucus for Art and the Feminist Art Project, the juried show includes works in various media by Michigan artists and is self-consciously by and about women. The pieces particularly address women's places at the table, but which table? Judy Chicago's table? The political table? The dinner table?

Take *Poprah*, a high-backed bejeweled chair plastered with small pictures of previous popes and Oprah Winfrey's smiling face front and center. It's tempting to read this as yet another (clichéd) critique of Oprah's sickening fame and ungodly influence. On the other hand, in light of the exhibition's theme, it might refer to the censure women endure when they achieve successes traditionally reserved for men. The chair's glittery, tacky aesthetic lends itself to either interpretation.

In addition to *Poprah*, there are several other literal chairs: a rocking chair hangs from the ceiling, suspended by strips of what looks like a garish chartreuse T-shirt. Another chair, entirely decoupaged in photos and magazine clippings with injunctions like "Express yourself" and "Feminist," reminds me of projects I did as a teenager.

KATIE WHITNEY

Generations.

Generations is a row of three attached seats. The chair on the right, a child's seat attached at the hip of the center chair, dangles off the ground, while the chair on the left is simply a frame with no seat at all. Three photographs on the center seat portray generations of mothers and daughters. Bookended by a ghostly frame (a dead grandmother? an absent partner?) and a too-close kiddie seat, the middle one is the only viable spot for a grown woman: an apt commentary on the burden of motherhood.

I didn't know what to make of some of the less literal works. One giant print, *Untitled #1 from Life Size and Other Lies Series*, depicts a young blond girl sitting in a fifties kitchen. She wears a sly inscrutable smile and holds up a large spoon, ready to dig into a box of Frosted Flakes on the table. Visually, with the seafoam-green and carnation-pink kitchen colors and her face as big as Tony the Tiger's, it's grrrrreat. But I can't figure out what the hell it means.

I also couldn't understand a piece called *Brainstorm (Iraq War Memorial)*. The bloody mangled head of a doll sits atop a wooden stump inside a broken glass box with shards of glass and thick twisty wires protruding from it as if her thoughts had exploded. It's certainly violent, but I'm not sure how it relates to the Iraq War specifically.

Some more subtle but often more powerful works hide in little nooks around the exhibit. I fell in love with *All Tied Up*, a simple contour line drawing of two nude women bandaged to chairs. The use of bandages instead of ropes or chains suggests broken bones, with the chairs acting as splints; perhaps it's a sad image of the figures' symbiotic relationship to oppression. Like the rest of the exhibition, this piece is up for interpretation through Sunday, August 10.

—Katie Whitney

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. *Eighty-sixth Annual All-Media Exhibit* (August 15–September 28). Reception 15 Friday, 6–8 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 East Eisenhower Parkway. *Passenger Side Window: Photographs by Kevin Pakravan* (August 2–September 14). 327–4560.

Common Cup, 1511 Washtenaw. *Images from Real Life: Pastels, Watercolors, and Woodcuts by Paul Zuellig* (August 1–31). 971–0550.

EMU Student Center Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Photographs by Randy Mascharka* (August 18–29). 528–3993.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Road. *Pastels by Marie Glysson and Watercolors by Doris Foss* (August 4–October 31). Reception 10 Sunday, 4–5:30 p.m. 998–9354.

Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Gender Agenda* (August 6–September 14). Reception 8 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *Portraits of Friends: Paintings by Nancy Swearingen; Motawi at Home: Handmade Ceramic Art Tile; Lighthouses of Michigan: Photographs on Cotton Paper by Steven Huyser-Honig; Inside & Out: Carved Limestone, Bronze, & Painted Steel by Mark Beltchenko; Postcards from Paradise: Color Photography by Dale Fisher; Still Life: Silk Flowers by Rebecca Lambers; Out of Elements: Buttermilk, Mylar, & Paper Mixed Media by Jacque Liu; Cinderella's Revenge: Shoes & Mixed Media by David Grant; Collaborative Spirit: Fiber Fabrications by Kathie Briggs, Peg Keeney, & Desiree Vaughn* (August 25–October 13). 936–ARTS.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue. *Paintings by Constance McMillan* (August 1–September 30). 769–2999.

River Gallery, 120 North Main, Chelsea. *Natural Awakenings: Paintings by Ruth Gilmore Langs* (through August 23). Reception 14 Thursday, 5–8 p.m. 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Rhythms of Life: Ceramics by Yiu-Keung Lee and Textiles by Lois Bryant, Sally Houck, and Marilyn M. Prucka* (through August 2). 480–ARTS.

U-M Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal. *A Cosmopolitan Tradition: International Students at the University since 1847* (through August 31). 764–3482.

U-M Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal. *The Life and Times of Gerald R. Ford* (opens August 30). 205–0555.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, eighth floor. *Maps of Olympic Cities* (August 21). 764–0407.

U-M Work, 306 South State. *Hybrids and Handlebars: The Fifth Annual Art & Design Staff Exhibition* (August 11–31). Reception 15 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 South Main. *16 + 16: Various Media by Various Artists* (August 12–September 21). Reception 15 Friday, 7–10 p.m. 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2007–2008 or 2008–2009 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

5 TUESDAY *continued*

★"Huron River Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tuesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18–40 miles, to Dexter and back. *6 p.m., meet at Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 662–0205.*

★"Big Sky Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tuesday.* Moderate-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along flat, relatively quiet picturesque roads south of Ann Arbor. *6 p.m., meet at York Baptist Church, 1220 Stony Creek Rd. at Platt. Free. 971–5763.*

★Ann Arbor Front Runners. *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741–1763.*

★Sherrilyn Kenyon: Waters Place Borders. This Tennessee novelist discusses ***Acheron,*** the 12th novel in her Dark-Hunter series, about a god who defends humanity against vampires. Signing. *6:30 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tuesday.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★Common Thread Knitters Club. *August 5 & 19.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"Tea Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *August 5 & 19.* Zingerman's tea expert Jess Piskor shows how to brew and offers taste samples of several fine teas. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $10 in advance, $15 (if available) at the door. 663–3400.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *August 5, 12, & 19.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: callers Ray Bantle, Marty Wilson, Stasa Morgan-Appel, and Nicole Grow with music by Dr. Grangelove. Also this month: callers Arlene Kindel and Greg Meisner with music by David West and Donna Baird (Aug. 12), callers Don Theyken and Bronwen Gates with music by Childgrove (Aug. 19), and caller Ed Vincent with music by Phil Chen & His Philharmonic Orchestra (Aug. 23). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★Sweet Adelines County Connection. *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

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5 TUESDAY *continued*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Gonzalo Guerrero,*** Eugenio Aguirre's historical novel about a Spanish soldier shipwrecked on the Mayan coast 8 years before the conquest of Mexico. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Inner World of Mind": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tuesday.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

6 WEDNESDAY

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wednesday.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Yoga Storytime": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–3 invited to listen to stories and then act them out using yoga poses. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *Note new location. 5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★**"Wednesday Break": Calvary Presbyterian Church.** *Every Wednesday.* All kids ages 4–12 invited for supper and various activities, including crafts, stories, and games. Adults may stay or leave. *5:30–7 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood (north off Packard east of Platt). Free. 482–5302.*

★**"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22–25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 13–18 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 31st year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 & 761–2659 (shorter ride).*

★**Meditation.** *Every Wednesday.* All meditators invited to join a 45-minute session. *6 & 7 p.m., 4125 Jackson. Free; donations accepted. 994–1026, 663–1675.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2–person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

"Tasting Teas of the World": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss the history of tea and how to brew it and offer taste samples of a wide variety of different kinds of tea from around the world. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★**"Making Good Food Last": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lo-Tech Foodways owner Peter di Lorenzi shows kids in grades 6–12 how to make banana bread using bananas that have developed brown spots, and Growing Hope representatives are on hand to talk about growing good food. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"America Fights Back: The Byrds, the Spoonful, and the End of English Domination": Ann Arbor District Library.** Veteran local musicologist Jim Leonard discusses the impact of the Byrds and the Lovin' Spoonful, 2 seminal mid-60s folk-rock bands whose frontmen, Roger McGuinn and John Sebastian, are performing together at the Michigan Theater on August 8 (see listing). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Burned by Books: A Hard Look at Online Book Buying": Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Talk by online bookseller Gene Alloway. *7–8 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Danit Brown: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Albion College creative writing professor reads from her debut book ***Ask for a Convertible,*** a collection of connected stories about 2 adventurous, confounding decades in the life of a girl who moves from Tel Aviv to Ann Arbor in the mid-80s with her American father and Israeli mother. Novelist Hannah Tinti calls the book "a dizzyingly delicious read," and according to novelist Thisbe Nissen, "Brown's stories are whole worlds, so alive with detail that reading them is a visceral, sensory experience." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** Check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 214–2755.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, ***Theosophy.*** *8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wednesday.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wednesday.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by beginning Lindy (6:30 p.m.), intermediate swing (7 p.m.), progressive Lindy hop (8 p.m.), and beginner East Coast (9 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

7 THURSDAY

★**"Library Lego League": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7 & 14.* All kids in grades 4–8 invited to design robots using programmable Lego Mindstorms bricks to compete in various weekly contests. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327–8301.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. Today: U-M Turner Geriatric Center physician Neil Alexander discusses **"A Matter of Balance."** Also this month: Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker Allison Pollack discusses **"Digital TV: Are You Ready?"** (August 14), a trio of local high school and college student musicians perform **"Music for Violin, Flute, and Classical Guitar"** (August 21), and U-M voice professor Caroline Helton performs **"Music by Jewish Composers"** (August 28). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group,** a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Nature Fun Thursday: All about Insects": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to learn about the park's resident insects. *10:30 a.m., County Farm Park (Platt Rd. entrance). Free. Preregistration required. 971–6337, ext. 318.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

★**"Bank of Ann Arbor Sonic Lunch": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce.** *Every Thursday, June 5–September 25.* Musical entertainment by local performers TBA. Today: **Bump,** a Detroit progressive

rock quartet. *Noon–2 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 214–0109.*

11th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. *August 7–9.* Three days of bluegrass music performed by leading regional and national performers. Headliners this year are International Bluegrass Music Association Entertainer of the Year **Rhonda Vincent & the Rage** (August 8, 4:30 & 8:30 p.m.) and **Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver** (August 9, 3:45 & 8:30 p.m.), a celebrated bluegrass band from Tennessee best known for the breathtaking beauty and control of its voices and instruments. For a complete schedule, see wilderbluegrassfestival.com. *Noon–midnight, KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd. (US-23 to Exit 25; southeast on Plank Rd.), Milan. Tickets $55 (for all 3 days) in advance by Aug. 1, $65 at the gate for all 3 days. $35 per day at the gate only. (248) 435–2828, (248) 813–0260.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *August 7 & 14.* Outdoor performances by local musicians. Today: jump blues and swing by the **Bluescasters.** Also this month: the **Global Jazz Trio** (August 14) plays upbeat, inspirational contemporary jazz. Rain location: U-M Hospital lobby. *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital courtyard, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Scrapbooks from Scratch": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–8 invited to bring photos, ticket stubs, and other collected item to use in making their own scrapbook. Materials provided. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**5th Annual Sacred Choral Symposium Concert: Concordia University.** Concordia University choir director Brian Altevogt directs the symposium chorus in a program of sacred songs. *4:30–5 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

★**"Yappy Hours": DogmaCatmantoo.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to join a casual group discussion about pets and pet-related issues. Bring your pet. Snacks. *5–7 p.m., DogmaCatmantoo, 208 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 929–0022.*

★**Board Game Night: Get Your Game On.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**U-M Sailing Club.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to meet members of this local sailing club and hear a talk by club members. Today: **"First Aid for Sailors"** by Jane Tucker. Also this month: topics TBA (Aug. 14 & 21) and **"Celestial Navigation"** (Aug. 28) by Carey Jones. *6:15 p.m. (Aug. 7), 6:45 p.m. (Aug. 14 & 21), & 7:30 p.m. (Aug. 28), Duderstadt Center conference room 4, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 426–4299.*

★**"Thursday Evening Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Fast/moderate-paced 25-mile ride around northeast Ann Arbor that includes some good chances to improve your climbing skills. *6:30 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 996–9122.*

★**"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights": Chelsea Retail Advisory Council.** *Every Thursday.* Musical entertainment on stages downtown, as well as activities for kids. Also, an art market, food vendors, and carriage rides. Weekly schedules available at chelseafestivals.com. *6:30–8:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free (fee for carriage ride). 475–1145.*

★**"Frank Lloyd Wright Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Slow-paced 15-mile ride on mountain or wide-tired road bikes over the lightly traveled, hard dirt roads behind Domino's Farms. *7 p.m., meet at 2722 Georgetown Blvd. (north off Plymouth Rd.). Free. 995–5017, 663–5060.*

5K Summer Fun Runs: Concordia University. *Every Thursday, July 10–August 14, except July 24.* All runners invited to race on the Concordia University campus. Ribbons to the top 10 runners. *7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. registration), Concordia University, west of the Concordia Gymnasium, 4090 Geddes Rd. $5 (kids age 13 & under, $3). 502–4809.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Meditation and Chanting: Siddha Yoga Meditation Center of Ann Arbor.** *Every Thursday.* All invited for chanting and meditation. *7–8:30 p.m., Siddha Yoga, Arbor Atrium, suite 280, 315 W. Huron. Free. 747–7116.*

"Higher Consciousness": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Thursday.* All invited to

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join a group discussion and practice techniques to raise consciousness. *7–8 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 353–0906.*

★**"Paper Mola Magic": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–3 invited to make a colored paper mola inspired by Ecuadoran molas, which are fabric panels stitched together to make a woman's blouse. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL youth story corner, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Fine Binding: Extra Work, Extra Results": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local book conservator discusses historical book binding. In conjunction with a current AADL exhibit, presented in anticipation of the Kerrytown BookFest in September. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Nancy Pelosi: Liberty Borders. The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives discusses ***Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters,*** a book she cowrote with Amy Hearth. Signing. *7 p.m. (wristbands available at 9 a.m.), Borders, 612 Liberty. Free wristband with purchase of Pelosi's book. 668–7652.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., location TBA. $5. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**"Wake Up Your Intuition": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Toledo-area intuitive medium and hypnotherapist **Kimmie Rose Zapf** discusses her new book. Signing. *7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Thursday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., ICC Education Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474–1155.*

"Shakespeare Variations Revisited": Brass Tacks Ensemble. *August 7–9.* James Ingagiola directs this local ensemble in a revue of sketches inspired by Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies that include drama, music, comedy, parodies, satire, adaptations, prequels, sequels, and what-ifs. Featured sketches include "Cole Porter's *Titus Andronicus*," "Beatrice and Benedick in counseling," "*Two Gentlemen of Verona* (by David Mamet)," and more. Cast: director Ingagiola, Anne Rhoades, Rob Sulewski, and Elif Wisecup. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15 (students, $8). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday–Sunday, August 7–September 7.* Malcolm Tulip, an imported local theater treasure known for his wonderfully inventive, bracingly idiosyncratic expressionistic comic plays, directs the premiere of his latest work. It's a comedy about a family on the night they discover that, along with an eccentric composer, they are their town's only survivors after catastrophe strikes. Confronted by a changed world, they rediscover their familiar world with new eyes as they imagine and invent new ways to survive. Like the family, Tulip and his collaborators went into rehearsals not knowing exactly how things would turn out—they create the show as they go. With Brendan McMahon and Laurel Hufano, and original music by Frank Pahl, who performs a show with his trio Little Bang Theory following the August 21 performance (see listing). *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Aug. 7), $20 (Aug. 8, 10, & 14), and $28 (Aug. 9). Aug. 15 opening night tickets: $42 includes reception. After Aug. 15: $25 (Thurs. & Sat. matinee), $30 (Fri. & Sun.), and $37 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over, $10 discounts available (except Sat. eve.) for students. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets & $10 tickets for age 16 & under available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 7 & 14.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

8 FRIDAY

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** *August 8 & 9.* Two days of fun and festivities in Monument Park. Includes arts and crafts booths, a social tent, specialty food booths, musical entertainment, tours of the Dexter Area Historical Museum and of Gordon House, merchant sidewalk sales, and yard sales around town. Also, on August 8 an American Legion Hall steak fry ($8), 4–8:30 p.m., and on August 9 a parade at 10 a.m. and a chicken barbecue ($9; kids, $5.50) at St. James Episcopal Church, 11:30 a.m. until sold out. *9 a.m.–11 p.m., Dexter Monument Park, Main St. & Baker Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 426–0887.*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *August 8 & 22.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Summerfest: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** *August 8 & 9.* This downtown festival features a large craft show, lots of live music, kids' activities, contests, a beer and wine tent, a car show, carnival treats, and more. *5–11 p.m. (Aug. 8) & 8 a.m.–11 p.m. (Aug. 9), downtown Saline. Free admission. 429–7429.*

★**J. A. Joshi: Borders Express.** This English fiction writer is on hand to sign copies of her novel ***Follow the Cowherd Boy.*** *5–7 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood. Free. 669–0785.*

★**"Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition Ride Around Town": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** All invited to join a bike ride in a 3-mile figure-8 loop around the downtown. *6 p.m., Liberty Plaza, Liberty at Division. Free. 975–1989.*

★**"Revolution Hero": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to compete in tournaments playing either **Dance Dance Revolution,** a computer-guided movement game, or **Guitar Hero,** a music video game. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to discuss **ceremonies.** *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs), 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

Roger McGuinn and John Sebastian: The Ark/Michigan Theater Foundation. *See review, p. 43.* Double bill featuring 2 pioneering folk-rock singer-songwriters. McGuinn is the former Byrds frontman who helped forge the distinctively bright 12-string Rickenbacker electric sound that has inspired everyone from Tom Petty to R.E.M. and beyond, and Se-

plays

Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid

Jeff Daniels goes west

Jeff Daniels, that restless playwriting mill, keeps shoving the raw grist of Americana into the hopper and spitting out scripts. His most sustained look at American life and myth is the Escanaba soon-to-be-trilogy of North Woods tall tales, but he's written about a dozen plays in all, including *Across the Way*, *Guest Artist*, and going way back to the early days of the Purple Rose Theatre, *The Tropical Pickle* and *Shoe Man*. In *Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid*, which runs through Saturday, August 30, he's tackled the western—not the edgy, self-consciously cool western, like *No Country for Old Men*, but a more romantic and old-fashioned version that tries to find some meaning in our exits and entrances.

As the play opens, in a golden desert landscape that pours from a golden picture frame, a heartless desperado, Panhandle Slim (Tom Whalen), is dragged onstage and left to die, blood spilling from his guts. And riding in hot on his heels is the Oklahoma Kid (John Seibert), a cross between Gene Autry and Oscar Wilde: the guy who just doesn't see the point of living unless he's running his mouth. He's got a guitar (which is necessary because he's going to be singing a half dozen songs written by Daniels), he's a philosopher, he's a cornpone humorist, he's a gadfly, he's a wit. And in this particular situation, where the one thing a cowboy wants to do is die quietly with some dignity, he's unwanted. (In terms of the actual plot, he also may not be real but rather a hallucination from Slim's dying brain.)

This is not Daniels's best play, nor the best produced. It's all about the words, but lines that sound as if they have some heft don't bear up well on closer examination—they have a funny cadence, or aren't actually that witty. The songs are simple and harmless but don't have the ancient cowboy cult burnish of a lot of others within easy reach: "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie" comes to mind. Most of all, the love story, which is told in flashbacks, is not only pretty thin but also tilting in sympathy to Panhandle Slim, who is—despite the charm of Whalen himself—a dirtbag. Some disconcerting direction, like an actor pointing at a sunset somewhere over the audience's heads while a shimmering violet and orange light show takes place on the stage behind him, and an entirely undeveloped female role don't help matters.

Daniels fans will love it anyway for its broad humor. And everyone will appreciate that the two principal roles are marvelously cast. Tom Whalen plays against type as a heartless outlaw. There's a kind of wistful sweetness to him, and he's got a lovely baritone (he periodically rouses himself from his job of dying to join in a chorus or two). Seibert, fluid and light on his feet, switches effortlessly between song, joke, and soliloquy, and does an awesome fake-horse-riding pantomime.

—Sally Mitani

bastian is the Lovin' Spoonful founder whose band helped revive interest in jug-band and other old-time pop idioms. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25, $39.50, & $75 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Book of Revelation": Dreamland Theater. The Accidental Blasphemy Puppetry Ensemble presents a puppet show based on the apocalyptic book that concludes the New Testament. For mature audiences. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Jeff Havens: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 8 & 9.* Ann Arbor debut of this midwestern comic known for his cerebral observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** *August 8 & 22.* All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *10 p.m.–midnight, 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

9 SATURDAY

★**"Huron River Clean-Up": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** All invited to join Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck to clean up the Huron River by canoe. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch provided. *7:45 a.m., meet at Dexter-Huron Metropark parking lot (near the tollbooth), Huron River Dr. (about ½ mile east of Mast Rd. in Dexter). Free. Preregistration requested. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *August 9 & 16 (different locations).* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (August 9), 1610 Washington Hts., and Matthaei (August 16), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–8528.*

★**"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** See 2 Saturday. Today: help remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle at **Berkshire Nature Area.** *10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at the end of Exmoor off Glenwood north from Washtenaw just west of Huron Pkwy.*

★**"Border to Border Trail Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Newcomers and casual riders invited to join a very leisurely, family-friendly 22-mile ride along Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail, with a stop in Ypsilanti's Depot Town for lunch. *11:30 a.m., meet at the Bandemer Park entrance off Barton Dr. at Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 662–0205.*

★**Super Smash Brothers and Mario Kart Tournaments: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grade 6–12 invited to compete in a tournament of these popular video games. Prizes for top 3 individuals and teams. *Noon–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Friday. Today: **the View,** an Ypsilanti rock quartet fronted by singer-songwriter B. J. Walraven. Noon–2 p.m.

★**Carol McCloud: Borders Express.** This children's book author is on hand to sign copies of her book ***Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids.*** *2 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood. Free. 669–0785.*

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. This month: feature films TBA. TV series: ***Shugo Chara!*** is about a shy girl who finds 3 magic eggs that give her unusual power, ***Baccano!*** concerns immortal alchemists who create a ruckus in Prohibition-era America, and ***Toshokan Senso*** depicts an ongoing battle between government censors and library defenders in the year 2019. Raffle. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one under 18 admitted without an adult. *4 p.m.–midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. umich.edu/~animania.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jeff Havens: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *August 9 & 23 (different locations).* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room (Aug. 9) & Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Aug. 23). Free. 973–2338.*

10 SUNDAY

★**Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club.** A judged amateur riding event for kids and adults, including English, western, and halter riding styles. Also, fun games like **barrel racing.** Lunch available for purchase. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m. (races & games begin around 3 p.m. and last until 6 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 699–6671.*

★**"Silver Lake Swim Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-paced 85-mile, moderate-paced 60-mile, and slow-paced 40-mile rides to Silver Lake for a swim. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 434–3097 (85-mile & 40-mile rides), 996–8079 (60-mile ride).*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *August 10 & 31.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles member Carol Lee Charles discusses Greg Mortenson's ***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time.*** Also this month: an open discussion (August 31). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

"Beautiful Butterflies": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a leisurely hour-long hike to learn about caterpillars and butterflies, and why they look so different. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**"Rock Band Star Jams": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to join a virtual band to play this music video game. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels set around the sea. P. D. James's ***The Lighthouse*** is about a detective, preoccupied with a new love interest, who solves a murder mystery on an isolated island. Jon Loomis's ***High Season*** tells the story of an aging sheriff who deals with personal problems while trying to solve the murder of a TV evangelist found strangled on the beach. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *August 10, 17, & 24.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $3. 763–6984.*

11 MONDAY

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *August 11 & 25.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★**"Vibrant Living and the Science of Health."** Talk by Health 101 Institute director Don Bennett, who gives the same talk at several other Ann Arbor–area locations this month (see health101.org/events). *6:30 p.m., WCC Health and Fitness Center, 4833 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 995–0875.*

★**"Common Myths about China": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by local businessman Warren Liu, author of the forthcoming *KFC in China: Secret Recipes for Success. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"7 Mondays at 7" Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music.** See 4 Monday. Tonight's performer: Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church (Detroit) carillonist **Jenny King.** 7 p.m.

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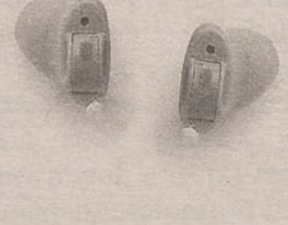

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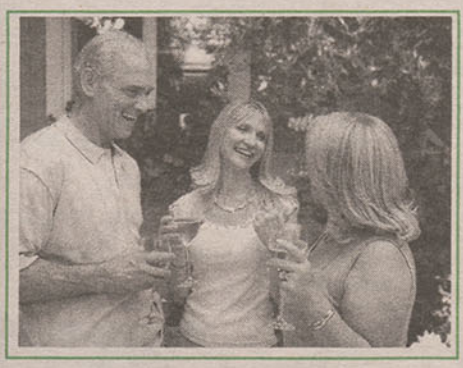

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11 MONDAY *continued*

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: U-M organ professor **James Kibbie.** 7 p.m.

12 TUESDAY

★Health Sessions: Whole Foods Market. *August 12, 13, & 20.* Talks by local health professionals. Today: **"Detoxification—Why Your Health Depends on It"** by nutritionist Judy Stone. Also this month: **"Help! I've Got Hot Flashes!"** (Aug. 13) by physician Malcolm Sickels and nurse practitioner Gaia Kile, and **"Allergies and Asthma Arrested"** (Aug. 20) by chiropractor Darren Schmidt. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"What's Up with All the Italian Veggies?": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of some of the preserved Italian vegetables it carries. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***Operation Red Jericho,*** the first book in Joshua Mowll's trilogy set in 1920s China about siblings who go on an adventure in search of their parents. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

Dattatreya Siva Baba. This spiritual master from Tamil Nadu in south India leads a guided meditation on "grace light," his understanding of divine compassion. *7–9:30 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Tickets $35 in advance at vaaaksounds.stores.yahoo.net/heoneaevdasi15.html, $45 at the door. (888) 241–7337.*

★Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***The Appeal,*** John Grisham's legal thriller about a corporation's attempt to influence the Mississippi Supreme Court. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

Reiman Bishop Flood Godston Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. Improvised and composed jazz by this quartet led by Chicago trumpeter Dan Godston. With local saxophonist Andrew Bishop, local bassist Tim Flood, and Berkeley, California, multi-instrumentalist Eric Reiman, who plays a prepared electric piano. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

13 WEDNESDAY

★"Basketweaving 101": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–3 invited to weave a basket from 2 flexible sticks and twine. *10–11:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

Community Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All invited to join a group drumming session. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *12:45–1:45 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. 222–6246.*

★"Make It, Bake It": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 4 & 5 learn how to make pizza and a dessert. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"Beaded Necklaces": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 6–12 invited make a necklace using jute, colorful beads, and a simple pattern. Materials provided. *4–6 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Potluck Picnic and Prairie Tour: Wild Ones. Washtenaw county naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through the prairie to learn about native plants, butterflies, and other animals. Followed by a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share and your own utensils. *6 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Meadow's Edge pavilion, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. $5 (seniors age 62 & over, $2.50) vehicle entrance fee. 662–9997.*

The Ginn Sisters are at the Ark Aug. 14 (see Nightspots).

Gelato Tasting: Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's gelatier Josh Minor and gelato maiden Emily Hiber discuss and offer taste samples of Zingerman's own sweet, creamy gelati. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★Don Bennett: Nicola's Books. This Health 101 Institute director discusses and signs his new book, ***Avoiding Degenerative Diseases.*** *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. Local historian Judith Elkin leads a discussion of John Charles Chasteen's ***Americanos: Latin America's Struggle for Independence.*** *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★"Poetry Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. *August 13 & 27.* Open mike readings. All poets invited. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Children's Creative Center. *August 13–16.* Barton Bund directs local kids in a production, suitable for kids age 4 & up, of Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasia about the dispute between the king and queen of the fairies, and the more or less unfortunate mortals caught in their mischief. Tonight's show is a benefit performance. *7:30 p.m., Blackbird Theater 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets $50 on Aug. 13 & $10 (kids, $5) Aug. 14–16 in advance and at the door. 332–3848.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. Today's 3 p.m. performance is sold out. 8 p.m.

14 THURSDAY

★"Our Walk in the Woods": Ann Arbor District Library. Michigan Radio *All Things Considered* host Charity Nebbe, accompanied by her dog, reads from her debut children's book for preschoolers through 5th-graders. *10–10:45 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Free. 327–4200.*

★"Bank of Ann Arbor Sonic Lunch": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce. See 7 Thursday. Today: **John E. Lawrence,** a veteran local jazz guitarist. Noon–2 p.m.

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. *August 14 & 28.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *3–6 p.m., CTN studio,*

2805 South Industrial, suite 200, Free. Reservations required. 769–7422, ext. 1054.

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

"Micro Madness": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about a wide variety of beers from microbreweries around the country. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**"Help! I've Got Hot Flashes!": Plum Market.** Talk by local physician Malcolm Sickels and local nurse practitioner Gaia Kile. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village shopping center. Free. Preregistration requested. 827–5000.*

★**"Cuentos en Espanol": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local musician Teresa Satterfield presents a program of stories and songs in Spanish. *7–7:30 p.m., AADL youth story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"When Should I Retire? A Social Security Update": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Social Security Administration social insurance specialist Jo Anne Ashenden. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Film Discussion Group: Jewish Community Center. Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins leads a discussion of ***The Wackness,*** Jonathan Levine's new comedy that continues its run at the Michigan Theater this month (see Films, p. 40). *7 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $75 for the yearlong 10-session series; prorated weekly fee TBA. 971–0990.*

"Fascinating Rhythm": People Dancing. *August 14–16.* This local modern dance company presents a concert of innovative works celebrating the rhythms of our lives. The program features new works by 2 guest choreographers, U-M dance grad **Shawn T. Bible** and Companeros de Flamenco member **Holly A. Matthews,** a Detroit-area dancer-choreographer whose work mixes modern dance with flamenco and contact improvisation styles. Also, the premiere of People Dancing artistic director **Christina Sears-Etter**'s group dance *Seventh Day* and the premiere of *Latin (in)Fusion* and *ZenTap,* 2 tap dance collaborations between Sears-Etter and composer and multi-instrumentalist Ken Kozora, who performs his scores for Zendrum and bass live. *7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 in advance at Dancer's Boutique and at the door. 368–7573.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Children's Creative Center. See 13 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

Andrea Askowitz: Sh\aut\ Cabaret & Gallery. Currently on her "Misery Loves Company" tour, this Miami performance artist, the author of *My Miserable, Lonely, Lesbian Pregnancy,* tells comedic stories about her life. Dubbed a female David Sedaris, she boasts, "I love to complain, and I think I'm even good at it." Opening acts are **Nick Tobier,** a U-M art professor who performs "Wacky PowerPoint Presentations," and **Amanda Krugliak,** a local performance artist who specializes in fictitious memoirs. Proceeds benefit the Lesbian Moms Network. *8 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 663–0036.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Moonshadow Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8–24 miles, along the Gallup Park pathway. Weather permitting. *9 p.m., Mitchell Field parking lot (east end), Fuller Rd. Free. 973–9225.*

15 FRIDAY

★**30th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.** *August 15–17.* 100,000 people usually visit this award-winning cultural heritage showcase of historical exhibits, tours, musical events, kids activities, and much more in Riverside Park, Frog Island Park, and Depot Town. There is a Civil War and living history encampment, with heritage minstrels and traditional craft demos. Also, live music, open houses at several museums and historic buildings, a "Millionaires Party and Saloon" with Texas Hold 'Em & blackjack, a parade, an arts & crafts fair, bingo, duck races, and a children's village with games, inflatables, and contests. Lots of food and refreshments available. For complete schedule see ypsilantiheritagefestival.com. *Noon–9 p.m. (Aug. 15), 10 a.m.–9 p.m. (Aug. 16), & 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Aug. 17), Depot Town/Riverside Park,*

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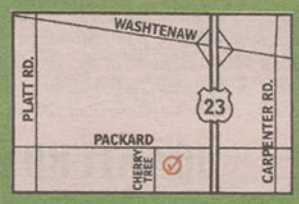

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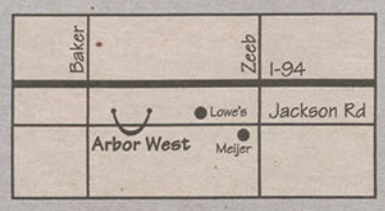

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15 FRIDAY *continued*

Ypsilanti. Free admission (nominal charge for some special events). 483–6071.

★**"Fairytales by Magic": Ann Arbor District Library.** Wanda the Fairy Godmother presents a program of fairy tales and magic for preschoolers through 3rd-graders. *10–10:45 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Stop-Motion Animation Drop-In": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 bring a puppet, stuffed animal, or other suitable object (including a claymation puppet made at an AADL workshop) to work on a project using the library's animation set. AADL staff on hand to assist novices. *1–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at Williams. Free. Preregistration required. 327–8301.*

"Mugging It": Ann Arbor Art Center. All invited to paint a coffee mug. Followed by a roasting demo and a coffee tasting at Mighty Good Coffee. Supplies and snacks provided. *6:30–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $20 (members, $18). Preregistration required. 994–8004.*

★**"Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. *7–9:15 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

★**Michael Koryta: Aunt Agatha's.** This acclaimed 24-year-old mystery writer from Bloomington, Indiana, a former award-winning reporter for the *Bloomington Herald-Times* who also works for a private investigator, discusses ***Envy the Night,*** his recently published 4th novel about a man who must finally come to terms with the legacy of his late father, who was both a U.S. marshal and a contract killer. Koryta's debut novel, *Tonight I Said Goodbye*, was nominated for Edgar and Shamus awards. Signing. *7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Children's Creative Center. See 13 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

"Fascinating Rhythm": People Dancing. See 14 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Josh Sneed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 15 & 16.* Ann Arbor debut of this young Cincinnati comic, a favorite on satellite radio comedy channels as well as cable TV who specializes in fast-paced observational riffs about popular culture. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Bill Maher: Live Nation. Best known as the quick-witted, wickedly funny host of *Politically Incorrect* and his current HBO hit *Real Time*, Maher specializes in barbed, impudent political, cultural, and topical satire. Maher stars in *Borat* director Larry Charles's forthcoming comic documentary on religion *Religulous. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $45 & $55 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

16 SATURDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. *August 16 & 17.* The nation's largest monthly antiques show, and some say the best. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Food concessions. No pets. *8 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. (937) 875–0808 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

★**"Connecting the Generations": AGLOW International.** Talk by club member Lisa Byars. AGLOW is a network of Christian women who meet for prayer and community outreach. Women of all faiths invited. Light refreshments. *9:30 a.m.–noon, WCC Liberal Arts, room 340, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–4545.*

Ultimate Frisbee Tournament: Ann Arbor Ultimate. All invited to compete in this sport played with a flying disc. Names are pulled from a hat in order to form teams. Beginners welcome. The club also sponsors weekly pickup games (see 2 Saturday listing). *10 a.m., Fuller Field. $5 (members, free). info@a2ultimate.org.*

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Friday. Today: classic rock by the local band **Six Foot Poles.** Noon–2 p.m.

★**"Jump Up, Double Dutch": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4–12 invited to try out the library's Chinese, double Dutch, and standard jump ropes. Held inside in case of rain. *1–4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch parking lot, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

★**John Peters: Borders Express.** This Detroit lawyer and former rock concert promoter is on hand to sign copies of ***Motor City Rock and Roll: The 1960s and 1970s,*** a book he cowrote with Bob Harris. *1 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood. Free. 669–0785.*

★**"Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow Potluck Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Natural Areas Preservation Division.** All invited to help collect seeds and weed in the Children's Wet Meadow. Also, a tour of the park to learn about native plants and different ecosystems. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service for the potluck. Bring gloves for the weeding. *4–6 p.m., meet in the playground parking lot next to the tennis court at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free. 996–3266.*

★**U-M Men's Soccer vs. Colorado.** *7:30 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

"Fascinating Rhythm": People Dancing. See 14 Thursday. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": Children's Creative Center. See 13 Wednesday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Moonlight Canoe/Kayak Float": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All adults invited to join a city naturalist to paddle down the Huron and watch the wildlife settle in for the night. Bring a flashlight. *8–11 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $18 per boat. 662–9319.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by the Scalar Scalawags. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:30 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 426–0241.*

"Cinema & Yoga": Ann Arbor Film Festival Fund-raiser. Screening of several short films from the 46th Ann Arbor Film Festival. Preceded at 6:15 p.m. by a yoga class. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Ann Arbor School of Yoga, 420 W. Huron. $25 (AAFF and yoga school members, $20). 995–5356.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Josh Sneed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Full Moon Campfire": Superior Land Conservancy/Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.** All invited to enjoy a family-oriented campfire in one of the largest Conservancy-owned nature preserves in southeast Michigan. Bring campfire refreshments and lawn chairs; firewood appreciated. *8:30 p.m. (gate opens at 4 p.m.), LeFurge Woods, Prospect Rd. (½ mile north of Geddes), Superior Twp. Free. 482–7414.*

"Girls Night \aut\": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter **Tracy Mack** and **Lyn Sawicki,** a singer-songwriter from Jackson who writes emotionally charged introspective songs. *10 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $5 admission. 663–0036.*

17 SUNDAY

31st Annual Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. Self-guided tour of 6 properties in the city. Includes 2 19th-century Queen Annes, a 1917 craftsman bungalow, a 1932 Tudor, a 1926 Dutch Colonial, and 4 downtown loft apartments. *Noon–5 p.m. Tickets $10 in advance at Downtown Home & Garden, and various Ypsilanti locations, $12 day of tour at the booth in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron. 483–5688.*

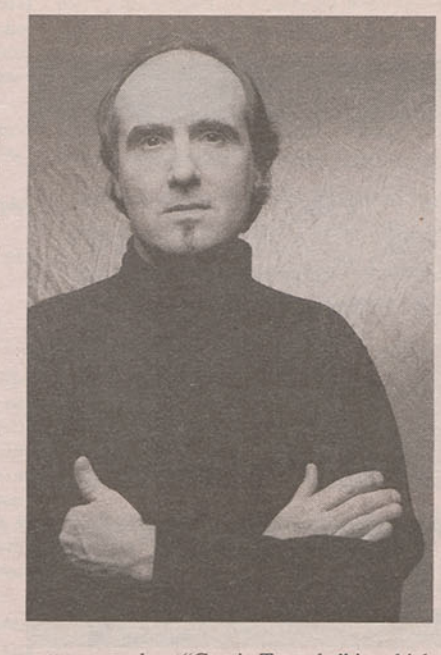
★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***The Alchemist: A Fable about Following Your Dream,*** Paulo Coelho's novel about an Andalusian shepherd boy who searches for an illusory treasure he saw in a dream. *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 272–9353.*

nash bash

Dana Cooper

Songs of experience



Music is a young person's art, so I'm always fascinated by musicians who keep commanding attention with fresh material after several decades in the business. Singer-songwriter Dana Cooper, who'll be featured at the Kerrytown District Association Nash Bash at the Farmers' Market on Thursday, August 21, is one of these. Born in Kansas City in the early 1950s, he recorded a folk-rock album for Elektra in 1973 and has lived in Los Angeles, Houston, and now Nashville. His gentle tenor, light but rhythmic acoustic guitar playing, and existential outlook were the stuff of a thousand folk-rockers in those days. So what's the attraction three decades later?

He can pull off a subtle lyric, for one thing. Cooper gets tagged with the label "songwriter's songwriter" sometimes, and among his large output are some songs that keep the listener pondering. "Death Is a Door," from Cooper's recent *Made of Mud* album, alternates verses describing a seductive female figure with this chorus:

Death is the end, death is a beginning.
Death is again, death is nevermore.
Death is your friend, forever forgiving.
Death is a winter, death is a door.

A Cooper love song is an unconventional thing as well. One refrain goes, "I'm putting you out of my misery/Ready or not, I'm gonna make you happy."

But I think what keeps Cooper's modest-sized but devoted body of fans coming back to his music is not its complexity but its growing simplicity. He seems to be stripping his stories down to lines of a few syllables, saying a lot in a small space. *Made of Mud* has a few songs that depart from common patterns, such as "Comic Tragedy," in which a sharp portrayal of the jitters of contemporary life is matched to an unsettling 5/4 meter. But most of the music is almost neutral, plain folk-pop, which brings Cooper's well-honed words to the fore.

Several songs on *Made of Mud* have a political tinge, including the first cover in Cooper's long career, Woody Guthrie's "Pretty Boy Floyd." Others, like "Four Laps around the World," are the kind of idealistic, Whitmanesque songs of experience that not many people are singing these days. Put all this together with his fifty-something voice—which sounds like that of a youthful coffeehouse strummer—and you have something that sounds suspiciously like wisdom, a rare enough commodity these days. The intimate block-party atmosphere of Nash Bash should be a good place to partake.

—*James M. Manheim*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***My Husband Betty: Love, Sex, and Life with a Crossdresser,*** Helen Boyd's memoir about dealing with her husband's cross-dressing. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

18 MONDAY

"Pirate Week Paddle": Ann Arbor Parks Department. *August 18–22.* Everyone who rents a canoe or kayak this week is given a pirate map to look for a treasure buried on an island along the route of their paddle. *9 a.m.–9 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $18 per boat. 662–9319.*

★**"7 Mondays at 7" Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music.** See 4 Monday. Tonight's performer: English carillonist **Trevor Workman.** 7 p.m.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: Wayne State University music professor **Norah Duncan.** 7 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** Local postmaster Timothy Robinson discusses current U.S. Postal Service issues. Also, a mini stamp auction and American Philatelic Society circuit books. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

19 TUESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. *August 19–23.* Fair rides and concessions by Mid American Shows (August 21, 5–10 p.m., & August 22–25, 1–10 p.m.), along with an array of livestock shows, truck and tractor pulls, demolition derbies, and more. New this year is **"Nature's Creation of Life,"** an exhibit of calves, piglets, lambs, and chicks, some of which are expected to be born during the fair. *8 a.m.–10 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Manchester (off Old US-12 north from I-94 exit 159), Chelsea. $7 (children 10 & under, free) per day; $25 (seniors & students, $15) for a 5-day pass. 475–8153 before fair; 475–1270 during fair week.*

"Heirloom Harvest Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner showcasing heirloom vegetables from his garden, including tomatoes, beans, possibly corn, and more. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45. Reservations required. 663–3663.*

★**"Coping with Food Intolerances": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local naturopath Diana Christoff Quinn. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–4589.*

★**"The Michigan Jazz Suite": Ann Arbor District Library.** The local jazz ensemble **The Paul Keller Trio** performs bassist Keller's new suite of 15 jazz tone poems inspired by iconic Michigan destinations, people, and events. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Up Close and Personal with a Live Eagle, Falcon, Kestrel, and Owls: How Raptors Have Adapted to Survive in Their Habitats—and in Ours": Sierra Club.** Lecture-demo by Leslie Science and Nature Center naturalist Francie Krawcke. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free.*

20 WEDNESDAY

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"DuMouchelle's Auctioneers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Joan DuMouchelle Walker discusses the history of her family's Detroit art gallery and auction house and offers an overview of the appraisal and auction business. All invited to bring 1 item for her to appraise informally. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

21 THURSDAY

★**"Bank of Ann Arbor Sonic Lunch": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce.** See 7 Thursday. Today: **Jill Jack,** a sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Noon–2 p.m.

★**"Nash Bash": Kerrytown District Association.** This mini country music festival is headlined by **Dana Cooper** *(see review, left),* a veteran Missouri-bred folk-rock singer-songwriter from Nashville whose songs are known for their melodic inventiveness and poetically evocative lyrical sophistication. Opening act is **Whit Hill & the Postcards,** a former local band that recently moved to Nashville, featuring Hill's richly imaginative country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. Other local musicians TBA. Also, a **"trunk-a-palooza"** garage sale where folks sell everything from china to cowboy hats out of their car trunks. BBQ, beer, wine, and other food available. *5–8 p.m., Farmers' Market parking lot. Free admission. Vendors: preregister for $20 at glbtbooks.com/trunkapalooza.htm. 302–3060.*

★**"My Architect: A Son's Journey": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of Nathaniel Kahn's Oscar-nominated 2003 documentary about his search to understand his father, the noted architect Louis Kahn, who died bankrupt and alone in 1974. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

"On the Patio": Vinology. Vinology chefs give tips on grilling, cooking with wine, and what to serve with grilled foods. Also, a tasting of 6–8 wines, grilled food, and a bottle of wine to take home. *7 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main St. $35 plus tax & gratuity. 222–9841.*

★**Health Talks: Plum Market.** *August 21 & 28.* Today: local naturopath Diana Christoff Quinn discusses **"Breast Health."** Also this month: local physician Andrew Heyman on **"Healthy Strategies for Weight Loss"** (August 28). *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village shopping center. Free. Preregistration requested. 827–5000.*

★**"Slipping Between the Covers: Exploring Issues in Young Adult Books": Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Talk by EMU teacher education professor Jacqueline LaRose. *7–8:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"The Adventures of Nate the Great": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. *August 21–24.* Jenny Sawtelle directs young local actors in Pamela Sterling's adaptation of Marjorie Sharmat's Nate the Great series about a kid detective who solves neighborhood mysteries with his faithful dog Sludge. Told from a young person's perspective, the play operates as a spoof of traditional mysteries. The cast features Liam Broadhurst, Chris Torrella, Madeline Sosnowski, Sam Blackburn, El Berg, and Blake Ortbring. *7:30 p.m., WCC Liberal Arts Bldg. College Theater, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $8 (kids, $5) in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Billy West: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 21–23.* Ann Arbor debut of this comic who'll be familiar as the ubiquitous voice of cartoon characters from *Ren and Stimpy* and *Futurama* to contemporary Warner Brothers cartoons featuring the classic Looney Tunes characters. His stand-up shows feature an assortment of familiar cartoon characters in odd-ball situations. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

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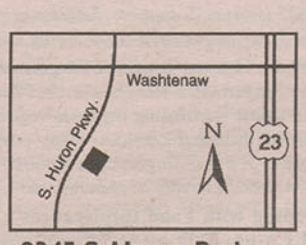

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21 THURSDAY *continued*

ments by this local trio led by Frank Pahl, an inventively offbeat avant-folk composer-musician known for his seriously playful explorations of links between noise and music that one critic called "future-rustic." With Terri Sarris and Doug Shimmin. *9:30 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. $5 at the door only. 663–0681.*

22 FRIDAY

★U-M Women's Soccer vs. Notre Dame. *7 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

★Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to discuss Rick Levy's ***Miraculous Health: How to Heal Your Body by Unleashing the Hidden Power of Your Mind.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"The Adventures of Nate the Great": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 21 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Peter Baker calls contras to music by the Hotpoint Stringband from Athens, Ohio. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $15. 476–4650.*

Tumbao Bravo: Kerrytown Concert House. This local Cuban jazz quintet, led by saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif, won Outstanding World Music Recording at the 2007 Detroit Music Awards. The band recently released its 3rd CD, *Un Systema para Todo*, a set of original compositions that a *Descarga.com* reviewer calls a "strong, refreshing and unpretentious Latin jazz project." Other band members include pianist Wesley Reynoso, bassist Pat Prouty, trumpeter Roberto Mojica, and Javier Barrios on timbales. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Billy West: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

23 SATURDAY

★Hike to the Beaudoin Prairie: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look at uncommon milkweeds, sunflowers, and arguably the prettiest hill in Washtenaw County. *9–11 a.m., Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. 971–6337.*

★"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 2 Saturday. Today: help remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from **Swift Run Park.** *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Swift Run Marsh entrance on Eddy St. off Verle Ave. from Platt.*

★"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Friday. Today: local classic rock jam band **Red Swill.** Noon–2 p.m.

"The Adventures of Nate the Great": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 21 Thursday. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

★U-M Men's Soccer vs. Cincinnati. *5 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

"Bats Incredible": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck presents a slide-illustrated talk about bats, followed by a hike to observe them in the early nighttime sky. *8 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to recorded music. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

"4th Saturday Contra Dance": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Ed Vincent calls dances to music by Phil Chen and His Philharmonic. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginners lessons at 7:30 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 730–6919.*

Gay Cabaret: Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. OutLoud chorus member Jeffery Kleinsorge & OutLoud musical director John Repulski perform American songbook favorites and Broadway standards. Proceeds benefit Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project and Triangle Foundation. *8 & 10 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. Tickets $10 in advance at Common Language Bookstore & (if available) at the door. Reservations recommended. 663–0036.*

American Romanian Festival Players: Kerrytown Concert House. This trio of Detroit-area musicians led by DSO violinist Marian Tanau performs a program of Dvorak's Terzetto, Kodaly's Serenade, and Taneyev's Trio in D Major. Other performers are EMU viola professor Eva Stern and violinist Kyoko Kashiwagi. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Billy West: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

24 SUNDAY

★**Jackson Parlor & Muster Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Moderate- and fast-paced 100-mile rides over scenic roads to Jackson to visit the Parlor (formerly the All-Star Dairy), one of the most popular ice cream parlors in southeastern Michigan. Followed by a ride through the Civil War Muster in Cascades Park. *7 a.m. (moderate pace) & 8 a.m. (fast pace), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 996–9461 (moderate-paced ride), 994–0730 (fast-paced ride).*

Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Newcomers and old members invited to this membership drive event kicking off the club's season of meetings and outings. Corn, beverages, and preheated grills provided. Bring your own goodies to grill, and a dish to pass. Volleyball and live music TBA. Persons under age 21 must be accompanied by an adult. *1–7 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $5 admission. 516–0296.*

★**U-M Women's Soccer vs. EMU.** *1 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

"The Adventures of Nate the Great": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 21 Thursday. 1 p.m.

★**"The Good, the Bad, & the Alien": Ann Arbor District Library.** Three of the hottest contemporary sci-fi writers—speculative fiction writer **Tobias Buckell** *(Sly Mongoose)*, 2008 Hugo Award nominee **John Scalzi** *(Zoe's Tale)*, and Canadian futurist **Karl Schroeder** *(Pirate Sun)*—discuss their craft and their brand-new novels. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. Today's show is sold out. 2 p.m.

★**"Pip Meets Miss Havisham": The 5-6-7-8 Summer Players.** Billie Ochberg directs young local actors in this excerpt from Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. *3 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"The Story of the Dragon and His Dinosaur Friends": Dreamland Theater. See 3 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

2nd Annual Benefit Concert: Lost Voices. This folk and blues concert features world-class local harmonica wizard **Madcat Ruth** and **Kitty Donohoe,** a Michigan singer-songwriter who sings Irish American roots music. Also **Josh White Jr.** Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. Other blues and folk musicians TBA. Proceeds benefit Lost Voices, a nonprofit organization that creates programs for incarcerated and at-risk youth. *4–8 p.m., Ball residence, 9548 Main St., Whitmore Lake. $15 in advance at lostvoices.org and $20 at the door. 449–5700.*

Matthew Ardizzone: Kerrytown Concert House. This local classical guitarist performs a program of mazurkas by Johann Kaspar Mertz, Napoleon Coste, and Agustin Barrios Mangore, as well as Federico Moreno Torroba's *Piezas Caracteristicas*, Joaquin Turina's "Rafaga," and Barrios's delicate Vals and his "La Ultima Cancion." A *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* critic has called Ardizzone an "expert in the intricacies of his role, always playing with sensitive nuances." *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

25 MONDAY

★**"T'ai Chi": Peaceful Dragon School.** Peaceful Dragon School director Wasentha Young demonstrates advanced T'ai Chi weapons forms and gives a brief history of T'ai Chi. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Peaceful Dragon School, 1945 Pauline, suite B. Free. 741–0695.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All invited to discuss ***Atonement,*** Ian McEwan's novel set in WW II England about an imaginative young girl whose wrongful accusation changes the fate of several people. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 417–3267.*

★**"7 Mondays at 7" Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music.** See 4 Monday. Tonight's performer: Minnesota carillonist **David Johnson.** 7 p.m.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: U-M student organist **Joseph Balistreri.** 7 p.m.

26 TUESDAY

★**Jim Benton: Ann Arbor District Library.** This afternoon, this best-selling fiction writer draws cartoons and tells stories from his popular series of books for kids in grades K–5, **Dear Dumb Diary** and **Franny K. Stein: Mad Scientist,** and this evening he talks about his **Happy Bunny!** series of humorously twisted books for 6th-graders to adults. Signing. *2–3 & 7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required for afternoon program. 327–8301.*

"Brewing Peace": Michigan Peaceworks Fund-Raiser. Dinner, a silent auction, and entertainment by local musicians TBA. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 116 E. Washington. Tickets $40 (age 18 & under, $15) in advance only. 761–5922.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *7–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pond Room. Free. 971–1809.*

★**"Dinner and a Movie": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Screening of ***Original Child Bomb,*** Carey Schonegevel's 2004 documentary about nuclear weapons. Followed by discussion. The film is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass if you wish. *7 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. Reservations requested. 663–1870.*

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

27 WEDNESDAY

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Stadium just south of Jackson). Free. 332–1000.*

"Cheeses of Italy": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of a wide variety of Italian cow's, sheep's, and goat's milk cheeses. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. $20 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

★**"Building a Green Life": Ann Arbor District Library.** Recycle Ann Arbor Environmental House Energy & Green Building Resource Center manager Jason Bing shows attendees how to make your own nontoxic cleaning kit to take home. Materials provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Pedro Morales: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Lecture-demo on growing ficus bonsai by this Puerto Rican bonsai expert. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 747–6493.*

★**"Poetry Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 17 Wednesday. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. Today's 3 p.m. show is sold out. 8 p.m.

28 THURSDAY

★**"Bank of Ann Arbor Sonic Lunch": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce.** See 7 Thursday. Today's performers TBA. Noon–2 p.m.

"Trunk-a-Palooza": Kerrytown District Association. Monthly garage sale where folks sell everything from china to cowboy hats out of their car trunks. *5–8 p.m., Farmers' Market, between Fourth Ave. and Detroit St. Free admission. Vendors: preregister for $20 at glbtbooks.com/trunkapalooza.htm. 302–3060.*

"Cocktails 101: The Corpse Reviver": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse bar manager Kevin Daum discusses the art, science, and history of this classic American cocktail. Taste samples. Age 21 & older only. *6 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $20. 663–3400.*

"Taste of Tantre Zingfeast": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Tantre Farm (Chelsea) owner Richard Andres and Zingerman's Deli chef Rodger Bowser host an all-you-can-eat family-style dinner featuring Tantre

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28 THURSDAY *continued*

Farm organic produce. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's tent, 422 Detroit St. $35 in advance, $40 at the door. 663–3400.*

"Italian Confections & Chocolates": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's chocolate experts Emily "Duff" Anderson and Reina Leber discuss and offer taste samples of some of the best traditional sweets they found while touring Italy last April. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Deli outdoor tent, 420 Detroit St. $30 in advance, $35 (if space available) at the door. Reservations required. 663–3400.*

★**Common Ground for Peace Group: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Three speakers TBA interpret relevant scriptural passages from different religious traditions. Followed by small group discussions. The program is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a light potluck dinner. *7 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard at Eastover. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"End-O-Summer Show-N-Tell": The Neutral Zone.** Local teen participants in Neutral Zone summer programs present their art work, music, poems, and short stories. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★**Kerrytown BookFest Reception: Ann Arbor District Library.** Music by local jazz guitarist Jake Reichbart, refreshments, and a final chance to view the AADL *Fine Bindings* exhibit. The Kerrytown BookFest is on September 7. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Girls Night \aut\": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter **Tracy Mack** and New York singer-songwriter **Joy Adler.** *8 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. Admission TBA. 663–0036.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Gary Conrad: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 28–30.* Ann Arbor debut of this veteran comedy hypnotist who gets members of the audience to do funny things. The August 29 & 30 late shows are "erotic shows" featuring racier stunts. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

29 FRIDAY

★**U-M Women's Soccer vs. Cincinnati.** *5 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

★**U-M Men's Soccer vs. Wisconsin–Green Bay.** *7 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

5th Friday Fusion Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Drake Meadow and friends call a wide variety of dances to music by Twas Brillig and the Mazel Toves. Beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94), Saline. $9 (AACTMAD members, $8). 332–7964.*

Kevin Meisel & Naomi Anest: Kerrytown Concert House. These two local folk-rock singer-songwriters are joined by Meisel's brother, bassist Keith Meisel, and Anest's husband, Delta 88 guitarist Alex Anest. The group performs songs from the Anests' 2007 album *Angel in Waiting* and Meisel's 2007 album *Cruising for Paradise*, recorded with his band the Ragged Glories. According to Keith, when these musicians play together they create "a warm, friendly atmosphere" that "feels like being in somebody's living room." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Gary Conrad: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

30 SATURDAY

20th Annual Great Green Yard Sale: Zen Buddhist Temple. *August 30–September 1.* A recycler's bonanza, this popular 3-day sale includes a wide range of donated items (clothing, books, dishes, furniture, plants, etc.) and discarded items scavenged from local streets and from landlords remodeling their apartments. These include chairs, sofas, desks, dressers, kitchen tables, lamps, drapes, curtains, and more—all cleaned and repaired by Zen Buddhist Temple staff and volunteers. *Note:* No early sales. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Aug. 30 & Sept. 1) & noon–5 p.m. (Aug. 31), Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free admission. 761–6520.*

★**"Living with the Natives": Ann Arbor Garden Club Annual Flower Show.** This flower show features native plants, decorated tables, large flower arrangements, single flower specimens, coned and berried branches, potted plants, grasses, veggies, and herbs. Club members and nonmembers may submit horticultural entries on August 29, 5–8 p.m. Ribbons for winning entries. *Noon–4:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 429–7941.*

★**U-M Field Hockey vs. North Carolina.** *2 p.m., Ocker Field on South Ferry Field, Hoover at S. State. Free. 763–2159.*

U-M Football vs. Utah. *3:30 p.m., Michigan Stadium. $50. 764–0247.*

German Park Picnic. Old-fashioned German dinner served a la carte (approximately $5–$7) with wine, beer, pop, and coffee for sale. Dancing to German and American music by **Enzian.** *4–11 p.m., German Park, 5548 Pontiac Trail (7 miles north of Ann Arbor; look for the banners and signs marking the entrance). $5 (children 12 & under, free). No one under 21 admitted without parent or legal guardian. 769–0048 (weekdays).*

★**LezRead Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Dykes to Watch Out For,*** Alison Bechdel's comic graphic novel about contemporary lesbian life. *4–6 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

Laz & Friends: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Laz Slomovits of the popular local acoustic duo Gemini performs his new song settings of poems by Emily Dickinson and the 13th-century Sufi mystic Rumi. He is joined by his wife, Helen, on flute and Celtic harp, percussionist Lori Fithian, and guitarist and bassist Eric Fithian. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a barbecue. *8–10:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Concert: $10 at the door only. Barbecue (reservations required by August 25): $10 (kids age 12 & under, free). 665–0409.*

"Fatal Prayer" and "The Boy Who Could Steal Cable with His Mind": Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents these 2 dark comedies. The first is about a woman whose prayers are answered in an extreme manner. The second tells the story of a dysfunctional family. For mature audiences. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Gary Conrad: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

31 SUNDAY

★**"Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** The assembled riders determine the ride's pace and destination. All invited. *9 a.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

★**Mushroom Hunt: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club.** All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi. Bring a compass, whistle, basket, and knife. Followed by a potluck picnic. All mushrooms are evaluated by experts for edibility after the hunt. *9 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Oak Meadows Picnic Area, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 355–0359.*

★**U-M Field Hockey vs. Wake Forest.** *11 a.m., Ocker Field on South Ferry Field, Hoover at S. State. Free. 763–2159.*

★**U-M Women's Soccer vs. Miami (Ohio).** *1 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

★**"Dancing in the Streets 2008": Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Dance demos and various kinds of dancing, including contras, swing dancing, maypole dancing, and more. Live music and performers TBA. For complete schedule, see www.aactmad.org/sa/dits.html. *1:45–7 p.m., downtown Main St. area. Free admission. 572–8678, 769–1052.*

★**U-M Men's Soccer vs. Oregon State.** *2 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763–2159.*

"The Day Everything Went Wrong": Performance Network Professional Season. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Story of the Dragon and His Dinosaur Friends": Dreamland Theater. See 3 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark
316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. **Aug. 1: Del McCoury Band.** Straight-up bluegrass by this celebrated band known for the exquisite, interlocking precision and passionate restraint of its instrumental and vocal ensemble, and for the aching spirituality of McCoury's classically "high lonesome" vocals, which highlight what one critic calls "some of the best harmonies this side of the afterlife." The band's 2006 CD *The Promised Land* is a collection of gospel songs highlighted by an a cappella version of the band's popular showstopper "Get Down on Your Knees and Pray." $25. **Aug. 2: Mustard's Retreat.** Longtime local favorites Michael Hough and David Tamulevich perform a wide variety of original and traditional songs and ballads about everyday life. According to songwriter Garnet Rogers, Mustard's Retreat "represents everything that is best about folk music. Their songs have entered the lexicon of anonymous folk songs." Both Hough and Tamulevich are accomplished guitarists, and they also play banjo, mandolin, flute, autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. The band's latest CD, *MR7,* is a collection of new songs highlighted by "Ours Is a Simple Faith," a song Tamulevich wrote in response to the November 2004 election. $15. **Aug 3: Goldmine Pickers.** Acoustic string quartet from Goshen, Indiana, known for its 3-part vocal harmonies and its inventive blend of bluegrass, jazz, and Celtic influences. $12.50. **Aug. 4: Todd Snider.** Best known for his hilarious 1994 single "Alright Guy," this folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis has a sharp ear for colloquial speech and an alternately grim or whimsical sense of humor, and he likes to write about last-chance romances, street-corner losers, and other phenomena on the alluringly dark margins of everyday life. "He reminds me of me," says Billy Joe Shaver, and the Ark has dubbed him "the witty, goofy, and tender poet of happy hour across America." $25. **Aug. 5: Scythian.** Young Washington, D.C., quartet that plays Celtic-inspired original music in infectiously high-energy arrangements that incorporate a rock 'n' roll spirit array of stylistic influences from classical to East European and Middle Eastern music. "With only a thirty-to-forty-minute framework, Scythian took the sedate Monday night crowd aback from the start with a fierce twin fiddle instrumental and rarely let up on the intensity after that with polka and gypsy songs thrown in among the more obviously Irish-inspired tunes," says *Music That Matters* critic Kevin Oliver in a review of one of the band's live shows. "By set's end the crowd was on their feet, clapping in rhythm and even stomping their feet, chairs forgotten for the moment." $12.50. **Aug. 7: Ruthie Foster.** Up-and-coming young African American singer-songwriter from east Texas known for her luminous voice, passionate vocals, and distinctive musical blend of folk, blues, and gospel styles. Her new CD *The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster* features an infusion of classic soul styles, including a setting of Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman*. $17.50. **Aug. 8: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. $11 (students, seniors, & members, $10) at the door only. **Aug. 9: Daisy May & Seth Bernard.** Singer-songwriter duo with mid-Michigan roots that is accompanied tonight by an acoustic quartet. Bernard is a local singer-songwriter, originally from Lake City, Michigan, who writes clever, funny, and candidly insightful folk-, rock-, and jazz-based songs about his life. He has released a CD, *Hello Fellow Travelers*. Daisy May is the stage name of May Erlewine, a big-voiced singer-songwriter from Big Rapids who writes thoughtful, richly emotional country-flavored songs. She recently released her 2nd CD, *Sleepless*. $15. **Aug. 10: The Tarbox Ramblers.** Boston band led by singer-guitarist Michael Tarbox that plays menacing, dark country blues. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer,* the band takes "an almost garage-rock approach to old country and blues songs, attacking them with an electrifying intensity." The band's latest CD, *A Fix Back East,* was produced by Memphis roots legend Jim Dickinson. $15. **Aug. 11: 7th Annual Mountain Stage Newsong Contest Regional Finals.** 5 finalists in the youth category (7 p.m.) and 10 finalists in the age 21 & older category (8 p.m.) compete for a spot in the finals of this international songwriting contest sponsored by the Folk Alliance. The finals are held on October 11 in Charleston, West Virginia, Cultural Center, the home venue of the *Mountain Stage* radio and TV shows. $12 ($15 after 8 p.m.). **Aug. 12: Jerry Harmon.** Known as the "Smoky Mountain Gypsy," Harmon is a singer-songwriter, storyteller, and acoustic guitarist from North Carolina. His repertoire includes the seminal "Jack Tales" that his great-great-great-grandfather Council Harmon was the first to bring from England to America. $15. **Aug. 13: Harry Manx.** A native of the Isle of Man who now lives in British Columbia, Manx is a veteran singer-songwriter and slide guitarist whose story songs blend a blues idiom with the forms of Indian ragas. Manx, who studied and toured with the celebrated sitarist V. M. Bhatt, also plays the Mohan veena, a sitar-guitar hybrid Bhatt developed. "If one were to think of blues in terms of the earth and Indian music as air, in Harry's music you find the meeting place between the two elements. It doesn't sound like it should work," says Blogcritics writer Richard Marcus in his review of Manx's new CD, *Live at the Glenn Gould Studio*. "In fact, it sounds like the worst sort of New Age nonsense when you only read about it, but listening to how he manages to get the two sounds working together you can't help but feel he's created something special." $15. **Aug. 14: Ginn Sisters.** Twangy Americana quintet from Austin, Texas, fronted by singer-songwriter and guitarist Tiffani Ginn and her sister Brit, who provides vocal harmonies and plays flute. Their band also includes their mother, Kari, who plays banjo and keyboards and sometimes adds 3rd-part harmonies. Homegrownradionj.org praises the Ginn Sisters' new CD *Blood Oranges* for its blend of "piercingly high harmonies, rootsy countrified music, strong sense of purpose, and lyrical insight that embraces a feminist viewpoint, coupled to a joie de vivre that is exhilaratingly heady." $13.50. **Aug. 15: Bill Bynum & Co.** Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose bluegrass-based songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music. His band includes fiddler Mary Seelhorst, dobro player Dave Keeney, and bassist Chuck Anderson. $13.50. **Aug. 16: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. $12.50. **Aug. 17: Antje Duvekot.** Fast-rising young German American singer-songwriter from Boston known for her hushed, conversational singing and darkly resonant, introspectively personal ballads. "I think she's going to be the next great American folk singer-songwriter," says Ellis Paul. "She's writing songs we need to hear right now. We need a fresh voice to shake things up for all of us." $15. **Aug. 19: Grievous Angel**. Detroit-area country-rock quartet that covers everyone from Hank Williams and the Band to the Grateful Dead and Metallica, along with several strong originals. $13.50. **Aug. 20: The Greencards.** This acclaimed Austin-based acoustic bluegrass band, a trio of Australian and English musicians, is known for its blend of superb musicianship and an infectious sense of fun. "The key is the voice of bassist Carol Young, which approaches the vast ethereality of Patty Griffin on the breathtaking opener 'The Ghost of Who We Were' and provides the perfect harmonic center to the first single 'Time,'" says *Austin American-Statesman* critic Michael Corcoran in his review of the band's recent CD *Weather and Water*. Opening act is **Jedd Hughes,** a fast-rising young Nashville-based Australian country and country-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. *All Music Guide* reviewer William Rulhmann calls Hughes's debut CD *Transcontinental* a "guitar showcase . . . full of fingerpicked electric fretwork" that suggests "George Harrison stealing licks from Carl Perkins." $15. **Aug. 21 & 22: Raul Malo.** The former lead singer of the Mavericks who sings in an exuberant, impossibly clean vibrato, Malo has been described as a cross between early Elvis and classic Roy Orbison. As a solo performer, he sings in English and Spanish, and his eclectic repertoire includes rock, country, big-band jazz, Latin rock, and acoustic Americana. His 2007 CD *You're Only Lonely* is a romantic tour de force that features Willie Nelson's "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground," Ron Sexsmith's "Secret Heart," the crooner standard "Tomorrow Night," and 9 other choice covers. $30. **Aug. 23: The Iguanas.** A mix of Tex-Mex, rock 'n' roll, Cajun, zydeco, and Louisiana funk by this New Orleans party band. The band's fans include Dave Alvin, who has written several songs for them. $17.50. **Aug. 24: Back Forty.** Local acoustic string jam quintet that plays a brand of twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and psychedelic rock that it calls "down-home funkgrass." The band has a new CD, *Big Orange Tent*. $15. **Aug. 25: Pierre Bensusan.** Bensusan is a French North African guitar virtuoso with a flashy, intense fingerpicking style. His music is a sonorous instrumental blend of several idioms—jazz, bluegrass, Celtic, French folk, South American—woven around his wordless vocal stylings. The winner of the Grand Prix du Disque at age 17, he has released a series of LPs and CDs that have provoked comparisons to Doc Watson, Michael Hedges, and John Renbourn. $17.50. **Aug. 26: Nicole Reynolds and Women in Docs.** Double bill. Reynolds is a highly regarded young sweet-voiced singer-songwriter from Pittsburgh who writes emotionally direct songs edged with a playfully droll observational wit. Women in Docs is an Australian folk-rock duo of singer-songwriters whose mix of upbeat songs and vibrant vocal harmonies has provoked comparisons to the likes of the Indigo Girls and the Waifs. FREE. **Aug. 27: Tony Furtado.** West Coast singer-songwriter, banjo player, and slide guitarist whose music, often compared to that of Ry Cooder, is an invigorating fusion of bluegrass, blues, and rock. His 2004 CD *These Chains* is a collection of blues and ballads that includes originals, collaborations with the likes of Jim Lauderdale and Jules Shear, and a tasty cover of Dylan's "One Too Many Mornings." $15. **Aug. 28: Amy Speace & the Tearjerks.** Alt-country band led by Speace, a fast-rising singer-songwriter from Hoboken, New Jersey, whose music ranges from contemplative to rocking. "Speace is a sweet, spunky, highly literate twangirl tomboy. She writes and sings with spirit and a sense of fun," says Indie-Music.com writer Jennifer Layton in her review of Speace's new CD *Songs for Bright Street*. "She can croon desert moon lovelorn ballads until your heart breaks. She can be uplifting and joyously optimistic. She can smolder and purr and fog up your contact lenses." Opening act is **Dave Boutette,** a local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. $15.

Mustard's Retreat is at the Ark August 2.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 30: Actual Birds & the High Spirits.** Local avant-noise ensemble led by singer-songwriter Dustin Krcatovich. Opening acts are **Ordinary Things,** a local experimental electronica musician, and **Kelly Jean Caldwell,** a local folk-rock singer-songwriter.

Banfield's
3140 Packard Rd. **971–3300**

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. August schedule TBA.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Aug 1: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Aug. 2: The (Lo-Tech) Watusies.** 2nd annual reunion show—complete with its trademark customized moniker—by one of Ann Arbor's best and most beloved bands, a thunderously big-beat, classically sweet-and-tough neogarage rock 'n' roll sextet fronted by the charismatically trashy vocals of **Dan Mulholland.** Mulholland is joined tonight by the rest of the band's original lineup: guitarists **Chris Casello** and **Drew Howard,** keyboardist **Surfin' Freddy Klein,** bassist **Oni Werth,** and drummer **Bill Newland.** As in its mid-80s heyday, the band's repertoire includes both Mulholland originals and a choice array of covers from Bo Diddley and Bob Dylan to the Pretty Things, T. Rex, and Iggy Pop. Opening act TBA. **Aug. 5: Harry & the Potters.** *All ages admitted.* Progressive garage-punk by this popular synthesizer-and-guitar brother duo from suburban Boston, whose songs draw their themes from the Harry Potter books. Opening acts are **Math the Band,** a Providence, Rhode Island, progressive rock band, and **Uncle Monsterface,** a self-styled "sock puppet" rock band from Brooklyn, New York. Advance tickets: $12. 6:30–9:30 p.m. **Aug. 6: Empire Drift.** Toledo pop-rock quartet. Opening acts are **September On,** an Ypsilanti pop-rock quartet, and **This Level Is Clouds,** a Toledo-area electronic-rock band fronted by guitarist Michael Texas. **Aug. 7: My Dear Disco.** Local dance septet that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. Opening act is **Innerphonic,** a Detroit electronica-funk band. **Aug. 8: Hieroglyphics.** Underground hip-hop collective from Oakland whose lineup tonight includes the MC quartet **Souls of Mischief** and MCs **Casual** and **Pep Love.** Opening acts are the Seattle hip-hop duo **Blues Scholars,** Las Vegas hip-hop MC **MUSAB,** the Brooklyn, New York, hip-hop trio **Tanya Morgan,** and San Francisco hip-hop MC **Knobody.** Advance tickets: $20. **Aug. 9: Buff-1.** Popular local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are local hip-hop MCs **Now On, Invincible,** and **Majestik Legend,** and **Tree City,** a local hip-hop ensemble known for its Wu Tang–style energy and politically charged rhymes. **Aug. 12: Incisor.** Local metal-thrash trio. Opening acts are the local metal band **Insurrect,** the Berkley, Michigan, progressive metal-thrash quartet **Fortune Favors the Bull,** and the local rock trio

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HENRY GRIFFIN

rock

The Ultrasounds

Good times, great newbies

As I was skimming through the Ultrasounds' press release, a refreshingly frank quote caught my eye. "People don't want to hear songs about how bad things suck all the time," says lead guitarist Patrick Betzold. "Sometimes people just want to dance." And that's exactly what I wanted to do when I saw them a few weeks back at the Barn. Their retro vibe and dead-on pop sensibility had me thinking, "I can mashed potato!" But I knew I'd be sorely out of place among all the cool kids bobbing their heads with amazing restraint.

During the appropriately surf-rock opening act, a demure-looking girl listened with her hands in the pockets of her hoodie. When the Ultrasounds' turn came, I was surprised to see her sit down to play drums. I was even more surprised to see Sara Griffin go at it with such fervor and even, on occasion, take the lead vocal as well. Although her mike wasn't quite loud enough at the show, I got a chance to hear Griffin's sweet voice on their new album, *The Way Things Were*. Her girlish vocals are almost twee in their precious leanings, but their peppiness fits right in with the band's flashback aesthetic. Matched up with Betzold's catchy, slick riffs on songs like "Why Don't We Leave?" Griffin's voice almost makes one wonder why she isn't the lead singer.

But Christopher Smith's versatility shines through on the album, proving that he's right where he belongs. On "You Don't Even Know" he sounds like a less whiny Ben Folds. And if it weren't one of the biggest clichés in music reviews, I'd say he occasionally channels a young Paul McCartney, especially when he puts a bit more force into it and lets his voice crack a little. (At their show, he even wore a jacket that wouldn't be out of place on the *Sgt. Pepper* cover.)

Get ready for another faux pas: "The Easy Way Back," my fave track on the album, is downright Beatlesque. It occurs to me, as I listen, that *The Way Things Were* is an apt title, not only because it conjures the sounds of the sixties but also because it acknowledges its own nostalgia.

Much as the Ultrasounds encourage virtual time travel, I'm reminded of the great cultural critic Fredric Jameson's injunction to "Always historicize!" To put these musicians where they belong—in the twenty-first century—perhaps it would be more accurate to say they're British-Invasion-meets-early-aught-years-indie-pop: think an edgier version of the Strokes, or the Libertines' first album. The aesthetic may be old, but it's still hip, man—and totally cravable.

The Ultrasounds are at the Club Above on Saturday, August 2, and at TC's Speakeasy on Saturday, August 30.

—Katie Whitney

Idol & the Whip. Aug. 13: The Mea Culpa. Local funk-drenched blues-rock duo of Mark and Mara Culp. Opening acts are the reggae-flavored southern rock quartet **Souldub,** the Detroit pop-rock band **Acoustic Front & the Resistance,** and **Mumble,** a local art-rock quartet fronted by singer-songwriter John Hawthorne. **Aug. 14: "Mash-Up Party."** With several DJs TBA. **Aug. 15: Cardif Giant.** Saline rock quartet. Opening acts are the veteran Saline rock 'n' roll band **Novada,** the Ferndale New Wave electro-rock trio **Love Meets Lust,** and the Indianapolis pop-rock band **Stereo Deluxe. Aug. 16: "3rd Annual Joe Strummer Tribute."** Headliner is **Hairy Drain Babies,** a local melodic punk band. Opening acts are **Gas for Less,** a local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly band led by singer-songwriter (and former Lucky Haskins frontman) Ryan Racine, and **Common Misperception,** a Detroit pop-punk quartet. **Aug. 19: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Aug. 20: SolPercussion.** Local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are local hip-hop MCs Plee, SelfSays, Eternal, Asylum, Dee Ali, Matt G., and Dekkredem, and local hip-hop DJs **IrwinPlus** and **M-Select. Aug. 21: Brian Tomsic.** This veteran WCBN DJ spins reggae records. An afterparty for a screening of *The Upsetter* at the Michigan Theater (see WCBN Films listing). **Aug. 22: The Blue Rubys.** Local almost-all-female country-rock quintet. Opening acts are **Sik Sik Nation,** a local psychedelic-blues garage trio, and **Kyoto Cut Out,** a local punk band. **Aug. 23: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Aug. 26: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Aug. 27: The Afternoon Round.** Local rock band. **Aug. 28: Octane and Illite.** Double bill of Ypsilanti hip-hop MCs. **Aug. 29: Amino Acids.** Detroit garage-punk surf band. Opening acts are the local burlesque troupe **Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.,** the local punk-folk band **Versificators,** and **Mazinga,** a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll. **Aug. 30: The Detroit Pony Express.** Detroit indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **The Most Wanted Band,** a Dearborn band that plays AC/DC-style hard-rock, and **Core Effect,** a Detroit experimental rock quartet.

Cavern Club
210 S. First St. 332–9900

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space is closed for the summer. Meanwhile, its music programming has moved upstairs to the Millennium Club, a street-level club at the same address, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Aug. 2:** DJ plays dance music. **Aug. 9 & 23: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Aug. 30:** DJ plays dance music.

The Circus
210 S. First St. 913–8890

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features live music Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.:** Bluegrass bands TBA. **Every Thurs. & Fri.** (except Aug. 22)**: "Live Rock 'n 'Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take.**

Club Above
215 N. Main 663–7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Tues. & Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Tues.: "College Tuesdays."** DJs play a variety of dance music. No cover. **Every Thurs.: "Girl Bar in Ann Arbor."** Ladies night with dance music by a DJ. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.:** Dance music with a DJ. **Aug. 1** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. **Aug. 2: The Ultrasounds.** *See review, above.* Local futuristic retro-rock trio named "Ann Arbor's most underrated band" by *Current*. The band has a new CD, *The Way Things Were*. Opening act is **"Dance Your Ass Off,"** a dance party featuring 60s to current records with DJs Michael Betzold and Jon Humphrey. **Aug. 8** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Corndaddy.** Local alt-country band led by singer-songwriters Kevin Brown and Jud Branam whose music mixes equal parts of Gram Parsons and Uncle Tupelo. Opening act is the **Ypsitucky Colonels,** a local garage dance band whose music mixes country, blues, funk, and rock flavors. Members are Corndaddy guitarist Will Stewart and 3 former Boomerangs—guitarist R Baker, bassist Tom "Sugar" Robbins, and drummer Adam Berg. **Aug. 9: Cesspool.** Local Radiohead-style youth rock band. Opening act is **Jared Saltiel & the Dirty Birds,** a local folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Saltiel. **Aug. 15** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Sandbox.** Local jazz rock quintet led by keyboardist Andy Adamson. With guitarist Rick Jacobi, bassist Doug Katchorek, drummer Rich Dishman, and percussionist Keith Poncher. **Aug. 16: "Bollywood Blast."** DJs spin Bollywood dance music. **Aug. 22** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Orange Door Hinge.** Local big band led by saxophonist and II-V-I Orchestra frontman David Swain that plays an eclectic mix of everything from funk and disco to Steely Dan and TV cop show themes. **Aug. 23: Autumn Coma.** Flint experimental progressive-rock band. Opening acts are **Idol & the Whip** (see Blind Pig), the experimental Flint space-pop band **Kinetic Stereokids,** and the Ypsilanti alternative rock band **Delusions of Faith. Aug. 29** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Aug. 30: Inigo Montoya.** Local band that plays a fusion of drum 'n' bass electronica with acid jazz. Opening act is **Vox Maui,** a Detroit psychedelic rock quartet with an avant-jazz edge.

Common Cup
1511 Washtenaw 327–6914

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. August schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights, and a DJ on Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri: DJ Big Daddie. Aug. 2: George Martha Band.** Detroit trio that plays traditional Celtic music with a Middle Eastern accent. **Aug. 9: The Terraplanes.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Aug. 16: Topper-**

most. Local blues-rock quartet. **Aug. 23: Kris K Band.** Local quartet led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Aug. 30: The Blues Owls.** Blues band led by singer-blues harpist Bob Bedard, a Dexter psychologist.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Aug. 1: The Gypsy Nomads.** The New York City duo of guitarist Scott Helland and percussionist Samantha Stevenson performs a bewitching brand of folk-rock that blends Celtic and French Gypsy influences. **Aug. 2: Annie Capps.** See Zingerman's. **Aug. 8:** TBA. **Aug. 9: Billy King Holler Festival Showcase.** Short sets by performers TBA featured in Holler Fest, a new outdoor festival held at Frog Holler Farm in Brooklyn, August 22–24. **Aug. 15:** TBA. **Aug. 16: Twenty-Row.** Newgrass, country, and folk-rock originals and covers by the Detroit duo of singer-songwriter and guitarist John Dobart and bassist Jeff Schott. **Aug. 22: The ROR Trio.** The local trio of guitarist Randall Beek, bassist Rob Crozier, and drummer Andrew Schreiber plays improvised music in an eclectic mix of styles. **Aug. 23: Joe Summers.** Down-home country swing by this versatile local guitar virtuoso. He is accompanied by rhythm guitarist Alex Belhaj. **Aug. 29: Four Shillings Short.** The California duo of string musician and drummer Christy Martin and Irish multi-instrumentalist Aodh Og O Tuama perform their spirited blend of Indian ragas, Scottish ballads, Irish airs, folk-rock, and blues. "They are not the Clancy Brothers or Jean Richie or Ravi Shankar but a combination of all three," says the Columbus Folk Music Society. **Aug. 30: John Churchville and Meeta Baneerjee.** The local duo of tabla player Churchville and sitarist Baneerjee perform and discuss North Indian classical music.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 31: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater
26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Aug. 6: "The Local Music Show."** Live broadcast of this weekly WCBN-FM show featuring local bands TBA. **Aug. 9: "Bare Wire Technologies Showcase."** An evening of experimental music by artists on this label. With **Re:fusion Cc:ontractor, Outlet, Strange Familiarz, Pink Octopus,** and **Puberty.** Remainder of August music schedule TBA.

The Earle
121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** See above. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and bassist Russel Tessier.

Elbow Room
6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover ($5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Aug. 1: Polka Madre.** Experimental Gypsy-punk band from Mexico City whose repertoire, according to jambase.com, "ranges from euphoric polkas and melancholic waltzes to punk, rock, and passages of classical music." Opening acts are the Wyandotte indie neopsychedelic rock band **The Farewells,** the New York City emo-folk quartet **The Boy Bathing,** and the local indie pop-rock male-female duo **Ghostlady. Aug. 2: Dutch Pink.** Rootsy indie rock trio from Detroit. Opening acts are the Toledo psychedelic rock band **The Drawers,** the Wixom jangle-pop band **The Rocks,** and **Light in August,** a Royal Oak trio that plays breezy alt-pop. **Aug. 3: Old Man Underground.** DJ duo that plays an incendiary mix of garage, punk, hip-hop, indie, metal, glam and rock 'n' roll. **Aug. 6: Hundreds of Thousands.** Local rock band. Opening acts are **Sparks the Rescue,** a Portland, Maine, postpunk powerpop quintet, and **Signal the Escape,** a pop-screamo band from New Haven. **Aug. 8: Pussy Pirates.** Local all-female postpunk avant-jazz quintet. Opening acts are **Dangerbird,** a Philadelphia psychedelic-punk band, and **Summer Hardcore Band Camp,** a local hardcore cover band. **Aug. 9: Charlie Slick.** Local electro-pop singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Lightning Love!,** a local keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio, and **The Mahonies,** a Detroit comedy punk duo. **Aug. 12: Direct Hits Mod Club.** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **Aug. 13: Clinton Switzer.** Pop-rock singer-songwriter from Pontiac. Opening acts are **Unlikely Japan,** a psychedelic folk-rock band from Pittsburgh, and **The Wallace Collective,** a Holland, Michigan, folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Brandon "Wallace" Muske. **Aug. 15: Love in October.** Indie pop-rock quartet from Minneapolis. Opening acts are **Glowfriends,** an acoustic shoegazer quintet from Kalamazoo fronted by the singer-songwriter brother-and-sister duo Mark and April Morris, and **The Softrocks,** an experimental psychedelic rock trio from Minneapolis. **Aug. 16:** TBA. **Aug. 17: Old Man Underground.** See above. **Aug. 19: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Aug. 20: Mystery Place.** Avant-pop quartet from Minneapolis. Opening acts TBA. **Aug. 22: Used to Be Women.** Soul-inflected pop-rock sextet from Brooklyn, New York fronted by veteran local singer-songwriter Gregory Stovetop. Opening acts TBA. **Aug. 23: Kelly Jean Caldwell.** See B-Side. Opening acts are **Black Jake & the Carnies,** an Ypsilanti punk-bluegrass octet, and **Drunken Barn Dance,** a local experimental alt-country and folk-rock band fronted by Scott Sellwood of Saturday Looks Good to Me. **Aug. 26: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **Aug. 27: Jura.** Experimental ambient-shoegazer trio from Dearborn. Opening acts are **Sey Lui,** an experimental ambient-rock band from Ferndale, and **Indian Guides,** an experimental ambient-shoegazer band from Detroit. **Aug. 29: & 30:** TBA. **Aug. 31: Old Man Underground.** See above.

The Firefly Club
637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*, that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Wed., 8–10:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Thurs., 8–11 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Tues.: Ghostly International.** Electronica DJs **Tadd Mullinix and Todd Osborn.** 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. 8–10:30 p.m. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Live bands TBA. **Aug. 12: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. **Aug. 19: Cool Moose Orchestra.** Ensemble of local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glen Tucker. **Aug. 26: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native.

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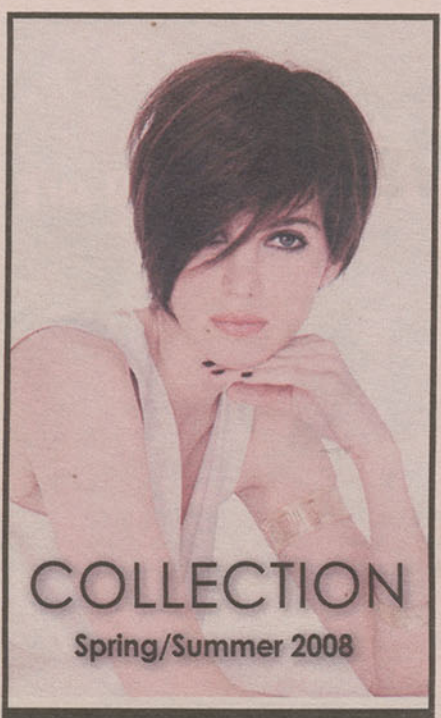

Music at Nightspots *continued*

With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers.

Goodnite Gracie
301 W. Huron **623–2070**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 1: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Aug. 2: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Aug. 8: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Aug. 9: CB3.** Organ-driven jazz-funk by this local band. **Aug. 15: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Aug. 16: The Terraplanes.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Aug. 22: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Aug. 23 & 29: Lester Blues.** See above. **Aug. 30: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m., & Sat., 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Aug. 1: The Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet. **Aug. 2: Andy Boller.** This former Ann Arborite, a versatile blues and jazz pianist who has been living in Switzerland since the late 80s, returns to town to perform with several of his friends. Opening act is **Erich Goebel Band,** a Detroit blues and blues-rock quartet led by singer-guitarist Goebel. **Aug. 8: Chris Canas & the Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Aug. 9: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty. **Aug. 15: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of house-rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, saxophonist James Morse, keyboardist Jim Merte, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Mike Adams. **Aug. 16: Luther "Badman" Keith Blues Band.** R&B-inflected Detroit blues band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Keith. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a set by the Ann Arbor Music Center **Adult Blues Band,** which performs covers of John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, and other blues singers. **Aug. 22: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Aug. 23: The Bluescasters.** See above. **Aug. 29: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs and is working on a all-instrumental CD that includes "Swing Minor 65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune. **Aug. 30: The Saints.** Detroit pop-rock band that specializes in classic Motown.

The Habitat Ultralounge
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Aug. 1 & 2: Diversity.** Top 40 dance band. **Aug. 5–7: Herbie Russ.** Solo saxophonist. **Aug. 8 & 9: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Aug. 12–14: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Aug. 15 & 16: Mickey Rat Band.** Windsor quintet that plays 60s & 70s rock covers. **Aug. 19–23: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Aug. 26–28: Diversity.** See above. **Aug. 29: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. **Aug. 30:** TBA.

The Halfass
Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. August schedule TBA.

Live at PJ's
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing. **Every Thurs. "Throwback Thursdays."** DJ spins old-school dance records. **Aug. 1: "Dance Night."** With a DJ TBA. **Aug. 2: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell. **Aug. 8: "Dance Night."** With a DJ TBA. **Aug. 9: "Dance Night."** With DJ Big Daddie Reggie. **Aug. 15: The Frontmen.** Detroit quartet that plays a mix of progressive rock and hip-hop. **Aug. 16: "Dance Night."** With a DJ TBA. **Aug. 22: "Dance Night."** With DJ Nick Mixwell: **Aug. 23: "Dance Night."** With a DJ TBA. **Aug. 29 & 30: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange.

Melange Subterranean Bistro
314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Every Fri.: DJ Zu.** With a variety of dance music. **Every Sat.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. Also, drum 'n' bass records with DJ Bassline in the Red Room. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** DJ Jaces spins high-energy dance tunes in the main room. In the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark plays retro music videos and DJ John G spins Top 40 records. In the Blue Room, DJ Mike spins techno records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Hardy plays Top 40 and dance music records.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Aug. 3: Kitty Donohoe.** Irish-American singer-songwriter from Detroit known for her bell-like soprano—an instrument that has been described as "rich, flexible, soaring, and haunting"—and her grittily realistic, bluesy original songs. She is accompanied tonight by local guitarist **David Mosher. Aug. 10: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan. **Aug. 17: Royal Garden Trio.** Early jazz standards and Hot Club–style gypsy jazz by this local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Aug. 24: Jason Ringenberg.** Solo acoustic performance by this acclaimed singer-songwriter, the leader of the pioneering Nashville-based cowpunk band Jason & the Scorchers. His repertoire of originals and covers encompasses an eclectic mix of roots-based styles, including folk and country balladry, hillbilly blues, reckless country soul, boozy honky-tonk, frenetic rockabilly, and wild-hearted rock 'n' roll. **Aug. 25: Jack Spack Jr.** Acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups and downs of everyday life.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Aug. 5: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Aug. 12: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Aug. 19: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **Aug. 26: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro
300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. & Fri., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe
611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Thurs. & Fri., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Thurs.: DJ Equinox.** DJ spins dance records **Every Fri.: DJ Swerve.** DJ spins dance records.

Tap Room Annex
205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 487–5544

This tavern next door to the Tap Room has suspended its music programming until it is absorbed into an expanded and remodeled Tap Room.

TC's Speakeasy
207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features an open mike Mon. eve., Thurs. happy hour, and dance bands Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Tues. Dancing, cover. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Roz.** Local solo pianist. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Every Thurs.** (6–9:30 p.m.)**: "Happy Hour Acoustic Sessions."** Popular local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **John Latini** hosts an acoustic open mike. Sign-up begins at 5:30 p.m. **Aug. 1: Counter Cosby.** Local prog-rock metal band with a wayward sense of humor. Opening acts are the local rock band **Subgenius,** the Howell metal-hardcore band **Zombie Ritual,** and the local crunk-metal trio **Texas Prison Rodeo. Aug. 2: Jesse Passage & the Lodge.** Detroit acoustic folk-rock and country-rock band. Opening acts are **The View,** an Ypsilanti rock quartet fronted by singer-songwriter B. J. Walraven, and **Wordhole,** a local alternative blues-rock band. **Aug. 6: "She Bang!"** Ladies night karaoke. **Aug. 8: Bizarre.** Detroit underground hip-hop MC. Opening acts are Rochester, Michigan hip-hop MC **Chris Co,** Detroit hip-hop MC **Don Juan,** and Detroit hip-hop MC **TL. Aug. 9: Bloodlined Calligraphy.** Ypsilanti hardcore thrash band. Opening acts are **The Sleep of Reason,** a Long Island alternative rock quartet, and **Illlitirit,** a Milan drum 'n' bass hip-hop trio. **Aug. 13: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **"The Cowgirl Cabaret,"** a blues, folk, and country song-and-dance revue featuring 5 female vocalists backed by a quartet. **Aug. 15: Most Wanted.** Detroit alternative rock band. Opening acts are **Sliver,** a Saline classic rock trio, and **Sorry,** a Detroit post-grunge rock band. **Aug. 16: Eric Noden.** Chicago acoustic blues singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Jo Serrapere & the Willy Dunns,** a local blues-flavored folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Serrapere, and **Jen Sygit,** a young Michigan singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her bluesy lyrics, down-home music, and sultry vocals. **Aug. 20: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **The Dixie Bee Liners,** a bluegrass-based Americana sextet from Abingdon, Virginia, that calls its music "Bible Belt noir." Opening act TBA. **Aug. 22: Satchel Jones.** New York singer-songwriter. Opening acts are the Detroit acoustic folk-rock singer-guitarist **Markita Moore,** the New York City folk-rock duo **The Fools,** and **October Babies,** a self-styled "upbeat global soul" electronica-jazz quartet led by Toko Shiiki-Santos and Erik Santos, an Ypsilanti husband-and-wife duo whose songs are sung mostly in Japanese. **Aug. 23: Wound.** Alternative rock band from Dearborn. Opening acts are **Paperbag,** a Commerce Township experimental rock trio, and another band TBA. **Aug. 27: "She Bang!"** Ladies night with **DJ B** and **DJ Killa. Aug. 29: Crutch to Crown.** Ypsilanti aggressive rock trio. Opening acts are **Dharma Initiative,** a Detroit progressive hardcore quartet, and **One Divide,** a Whitmore Lake metal-rock quartet. **Aug. 30: The Ultrasounds.** *See review, p. 60.* See Club Above.

Zingerman's Roadhouse
2501 Jackson **663–FOOD**

This west-side restaurant presents live music on its outdoor patio on Wed., 5–8 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Aug. 6: Annie Capps.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps. **Aug. 13: Royal Garden Trio.** See Old Town. **Aug. 20: Treetown Swingtet.** Local trio that plays a wide range of swing music, from Cole Porter to Django Reinhardt. Members are acoustic guitarist Brian Delaney, fiddler Paul Winder, and singer-guitarist Myron Grant, who also plays harp and bones. **Aug. 27:** No music. ■

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Down on your luck? Many women but no chemistry? This pretty minx with personality plus might just fit the bill. ISO DWPM, NS, 50–60, to ride in my air balloon. ☎5762✍

Invigorate your life. Meet a special new person. **DWPF,** 62, attractive, fun-loving, active, and educated. ISO W/DWPM, 60–69, honest, caring, fun-loving, active, and educated. ☎5771✍

Positively "seasoned," 56 years young, **DWPF.** Slender, caring, affectionate partner. New to area. ISO uplifting, easy companionship/relationship. NS please. ☎5776✍

Retired university prof. Foreign-born American, **SWF,** NS, ND, ISO educated, healthy, honest gentleman in early 70s. ☎5668✍

Ready for romance? **SWPF** seeks bright, caring SWPM for LTR. Must love animals. Serious replies only. ☎5774✍

SWF, young 70, 125 lbs., 5'3", attractive. Enjoys dancing, movies, travel, etc. ISO NS healthy gentleman/partner in his 60s to early 70s for LTR. ☎5767✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, raw food, and laughing. Loyal, honest, and giving. Into rocks, minerals, birds, and life. ☎5761✍

Loving, caring, attractive, young-looking 5'6", 125 lbs. **AF** loves music, books, travel, dogs, cooking, healthy living. ISO SW/AM, NS, ND, 67–75, sincere, LTR. ☎5764✍

SHF, 33, plus size, ISO SW older teddy bear type. Enjoy music, movies, sports, outdoors, candelit dinners, music, travel, much more. Looking for very serious relationship. ☎5750✍

Unencumbered **DWPF** (think Bette Midler) ISO emotionally and financially secure S/DWPM, 35–50+, for adventure, hot monogamy, and more. Friends first. ☎5752✍

SWF, educated, professional, ISO SWPM, 52–65. NS, no tattoo. LTR and possible marriage. ☎5727✍

We do what I want. Queen ISO uxorious S/DWM, 38–60, for Chicago, up north, fireplaces. **SWPF,** 40s, bossy, sensual. For friendship and possible LTR. ☎5729✍

Let's have some fun. I'm 42, brown hair, brown eyes. I enjoy dancing, going to concerts, and having fun in life. Looking for my special man. ☎5711✍

Seeking marriage and family, 40-ish female, no kids, never married, likes pets, home renovation, and new experiences. Serious and sincere only please. ☎5707✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Educated, bank employed, great kisser, Asian widower in good shape, lives alone, enjoys fitness, walks, movies, soaps, cuddles, cooking. Seeks SF, 40–50, for LTR. ☎5773✍

SWM, 58, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. ☎5775✍

SM, 75, NS, seeking female, 65–75, for friendship and more. ☎5765✍

Safe, average-looking guy whom everyone loves. Animal lover, honest as the 16th president. Trim, NS. I'm hassle-free so open up. Let's travel and have fun. ☎5770✍

What does it take for a great connection? Fun, values, and appearance. I'm 60 years old; very contemporary guy. You should be a liberal and a great kisser. ☎5687✍

A carrier pigeon is flying . . . a middle-aged multilingual Asian man is appearing . . . ☎5759✍

Singles player, 58, game for a good-humored doubles partner for a set of tennis or possible match. ☎5744✍

SWM, honest, educated, healthy, liberal, young 50. Cat lover (2 kittens) and musician or music lover are pluses. Seeks good woman/partner. ☎5747✍

DWM, 54, good looking, 6'+, liberal, educated, meditator, seeks spiritual partner. You only must love yourself. ☎5723✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. ☎5715✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5704✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

You know *The Secret* (R. Byrne) and seek friends who do, too. For spiritual support, friendship, and fun. I am F, you are M/F of any age. ☎5777✍

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

GWPM, vibrant, trim 50s, NS, ND, seeks boyish, skinny, geeky, career-minded guy, 20–35, for dating or LTR. Any race, effeminate, HIV+ OK. ☎5772✍

SWGCM, NS, 71, ISO same. B okay. LTR possible. Love genealogy and cooking. ☎5763✍

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club (you can join now for our summer activities) for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: **8/1, 9, 16, 22 Night Out on the Town; 8/4, 11, 18, 25 Volleyball at Burns Park; 8/10, 24 Sunday Golf Outing; 8/15 Informal Euchre League; 8/24 CORN ROAST AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE; and 8/30 German Park.** For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the club hotline, (734) 786–2237, or go to www.a2skiclub.org.

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To respond by phone, call (900) 226–8978.
Or to respond by phone using a credit card, call (888) 718–4827.
You must be 18 or older. $1.95 a minute.

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:
Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Place Your FREE Ann Arbor Observer Personals Ad Today!

- **Email: classifieds@arborweb.com • Fax: (734) 769–3375**
- **Online: www.arborweb.com or www.arborlist.com**
- **Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

www.arborlist.com—*totally free classifieds,* and
www.arborweb.com—*Ann Arbor online*

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769–3175

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Arborlist is published by the Ann Arbor Observer

Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Tickets: Tigers, Lions, Michigan football. 663–0690.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

★ CLASSICAL HARP MUSIC ★
Live harp music for any occasion.
Deborah Gabrion, (734) 417–6969.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and harp duo also available. Laurel, 663–9292/663–0087.

Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

AAUW seeks gently used books for its fall used book sale. Dropoffs are accepted through August 23, Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., at Maple Village Shopping Center, 227 N. Maple Rd. (formerly Hancock Fabrics bldg.). No magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, *Readers' Digest* condensed books, or books from other sales. For Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area home pickup: (734) 973–6287.

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

PIANO LESSONS, AGE 5 & UP
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Convenient west-side location. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 604–0942. Email mcpianolady@aol.com.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers.All levels and ages, 665–5346. aaaptg.googlepages.com.

PIANO LESSONS—Your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher, DMA U-M, (734) 482–4663.

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One-Day Retreat, Sat. Aug. 9, 7 a.m.–5 p.m. $60. **Zen Buddhist Temple,** (734) 761–6520 or a2buddha@sbcglobal.net.

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Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Why the Left should support McCain
http://laureleve.johnmccain.com

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 87? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

SHOSHANA TECH SUPPORT
Computer Setup & Support, Home & Small Business. Call Tom, (734) 662–3537.

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

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Creative images of your special event by a friendly craftsman with over 30 years of professional experience. **Lance Burghardt, (734) 769-6756.**

Volunteers Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Real Estate

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Is your home not selling?
Considering the option of leasing it?
We can help!
We will buy your home on a lease option.
(734) 787–9326

For Sale by Owner

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Homes for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Livingston Co. & Fenton—Beautiful homes and condos. Affordable pricing/lower taxes. 30 min. north of Ann Arbor. Visit my website: borntosellhomes.com. Marcia Dicks, RE/MAX Platinum. Agent on call: (810) 730–3034.

Condos for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Walden condo for rent, (734) 260–4597. Totally rehabbed. Feels new. Huge bedroom, living and dining rooms. Looks into woods from third floor. Sixteen-feet glass doors. Pool and gym. Free hot water.

Commercial Property

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Vacation Rental

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Property for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

11.756-acre homesite for sale. Augusta Township property T 20 34 300 017. View at ewashtenaw.org. Call Dan, (734) 658–2373.

Real Estate Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Real Estate Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

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Insurance and estate tax valuations on your personal property by qualified appraiser. Please call:
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Little Dogs Pet Care: Custom care by R.N. for needy, quirky, young, or senior dogs. Meds okay. littledogspetcare@comcast.net, or (734) 476-1480. $30/day.

Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 11.

Professional Premium Handyman *Plus*
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the public sidewalks and walkways?

A: Per City Code, Chapter 49, Section 4:58, all sidewalks within the City shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the adjacent land.

Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair? How can I check if my sidewalk needs repair?

A: You simply talk with the City's Customer Service Center at **(734) 994-2818**. This call will trigger a request to the Technical Services Unit for a sidewalk inspection. If repairs are needed, the City will notify the property owner by letter of the specific requirements to bring the sidewalk into compliance.

Q: What if the sidewalk damage appears to be caused by tree roots?

A: Please call **(734) 994-2818** to initiate an inspection by a staff person from forestry and/or the Technical Services Unit to see if a problematic root can be removed without endangering the stability and health of the tree. The property owner is still responsible for the sidewalk repair costs.

Q: Why doesn't the City make the repairs and bill the owners?

A: When contractor's perform work for the City there is additional costs for the contractor for Bonding, Insurance and the requirement to pay prevailing wages. Based on our Customer Service Survey we found the average cost for a 4" slab for homeowner's in 2005 was $130. The City cost for a 4" slab in 2005 was at least $170

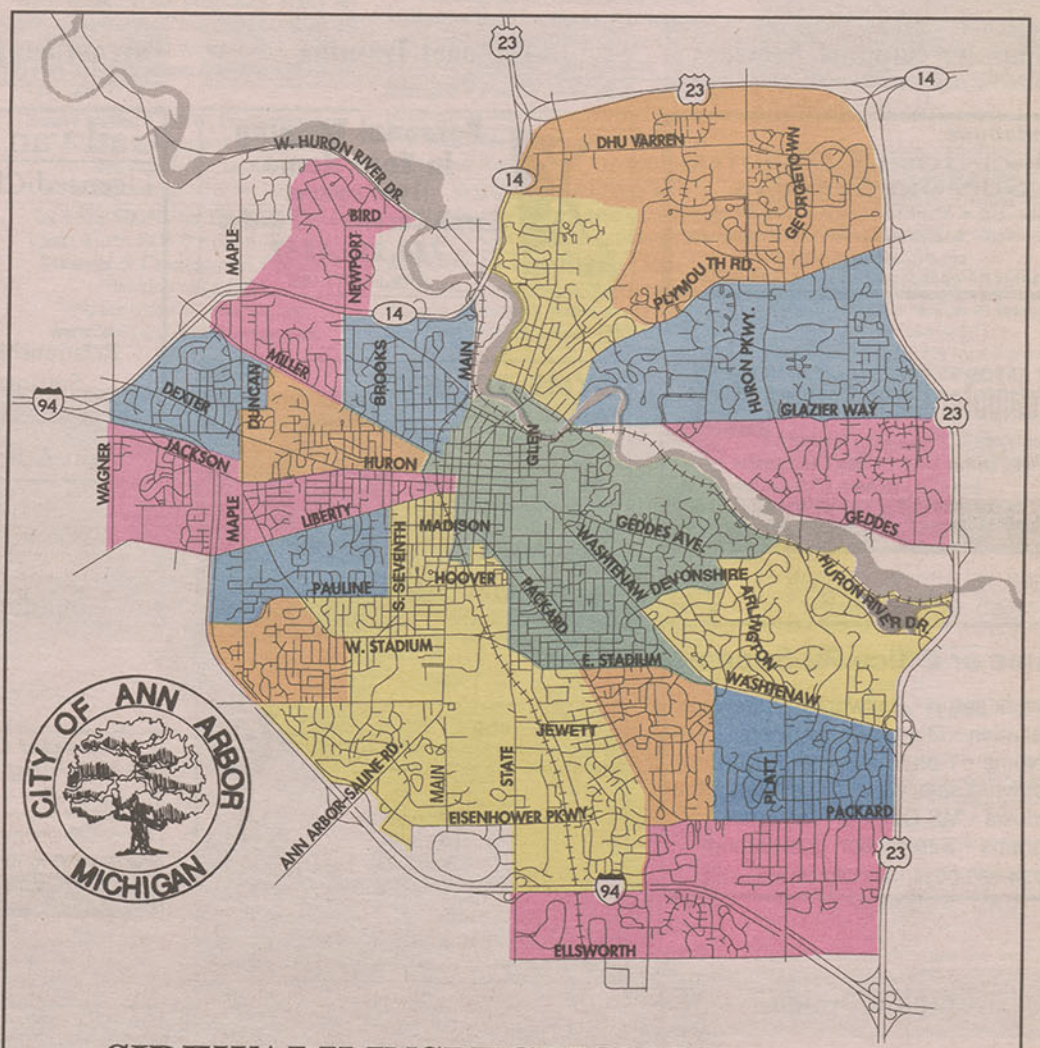
Q: If I don't make the repairs what will the City charge me?

A: The City will make the repairs and pass on all associated costs. In 2005, that would have been a minimum of $170 per slab plus project costs, which were $225 per address.

Q: Why doesn't the City find the contractor for the owner?

A: Based on our Customer Service Survey we have implemented a Contractor Pre-Qualification process. The contractors on the list will be instructed by the City on the procedures of sidewalk repair within the City of Ann Arbor. Contractors will also be rated on their performance by the City and the Customer Service Survey. The ratings will allow us to remove or add contractors based on City and owner experiences.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
SIDEWALK REPAIR
PROGRAM



SIDEWALK INSPECTION SCHEDULE

2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010

The City of Ann Arbor has implemented an annual sidewalk repair program to improve the walk-ability of the sidewalks throughout the City. The program will inspect all sidewalks in accordance with the schedule shown on the map. The annual program does not eliminate the citizen request procedure. If you would like to make an inspection request, you may call (734) 994-2818 or send an e-mail to: Sidewalkrepair@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Property owners or contractors may obtain the specifications and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's **Community Services Area, located on the Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue.**
2. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Community Services Area to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of $100,000.
3. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Community Services Area 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of $500,000.

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

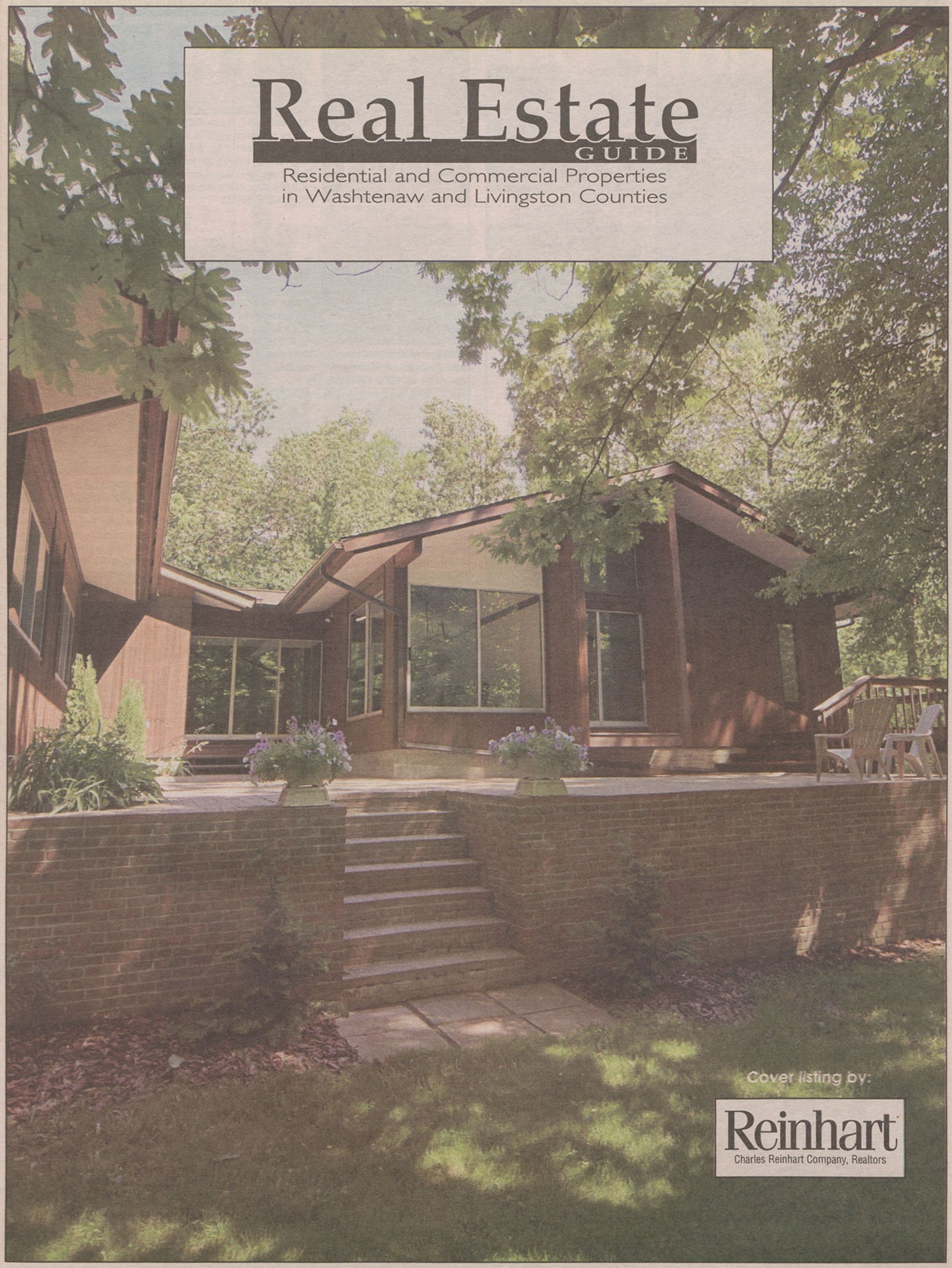
1. Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged use our sidewalks daily. Poorly maintained sidewalks carry high risks for injury. Your help is appreciated to make sure all residents may travel safely along our sidewalks.
2. City Code (chapters 47 and 49) requires property owners to properly maintain the sidewalks and public walkways adjacent to or abutting their property for use by the public.
3. Properly maintained sidewalks decrease your liability and enhance the overall aesthetic image of our City.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Community Services Area at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Hint: Multiple property owners working together may receive lower prices from a contractor.

More information is available on the City's website at: www.a2gov.org/sidewalk

Real Estate
GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties



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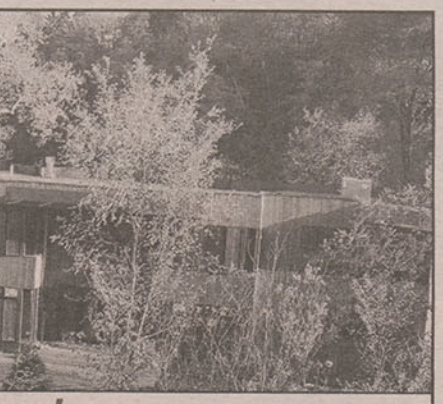
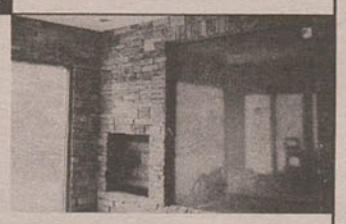


"Dream Big" This Summer! *If nature, privacy, security and peace of mind are necessities for you—be the first to move into*

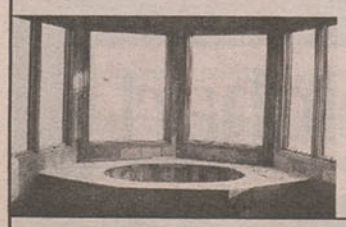
The Swan House



The Swan House is the third new home on this 25 acre five home resort setting, nestled on the scenic Huron River in Superior Township. It includes 7,200 square feet with over 300 feet of water frontage - just 85 feet from the house. This home is just 6 miles from downtown Ann Arbor and views some of the largest bodies of water. A protected, wooded shore across river provides some of the most private, secluded settings you will find. The sites are partially wooded with long lighted, wooded driveways, power gates, and offer some of the most unique wildlife in lower Michigan.

The Swan House joins the 'Halo House', 2002 and the 'Waterfall House', 2005 as contemporary designed International Style homes specifically designed for each site. The homes blend nature, wood, and water - and give one the sense of being outside when you're really inside looking out.

Includes 'His and Hers' first and second floor master bedroom suites - one with partial stone walls and one with partial slate walls with glass walls to the water. Both have jacuzzi's, hidden water closets, & large see thru glass 'Surround Water' stone showers. Sunken country kitchen has partial stone walls and 'Whiskey Black' cherry cabinets with black galaxy granite tops. Has an island with double ovens. A Viking Kitchen with 48 inch sub zero fridge and 48 inch gas stove top complement a large walk in glass door pantry. Additional items include 10 foot ceilings with 8 foot doors, 5 fireplaces, 4 walk out roof decks/one long ground deck, 4 1/2 baths, Anderson windows/door walls, 8 large corner windows,oak trim/doors, large heated 3.5 car garage & security system.



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Naturewood Unlimited LLC • Call (734) 434-5599 for appointment

Reinhart Reinhart Reinhart R

Ann Arbor 505 E. Huron #502. Terrific southwest condo in Sloan Plaza in the heart of Ann Arbor. Most popular building and location, 2 bedrooms, den, 2 baths, $10,000 redecorating allowance. $559,000. #2807953

Ann Arbor 320 Juniper. Gorgeous setting with 150 ft. of water frontage on Barton Hills pond. Rare opportunity to own charming 1931 home with 2,600 sq. ft. Beautiful location and sunsets! $799,000. #2806793

Ann Arbor 4120 Spring Lake Blvd. Exceptional colonial with upgrades galore. Maple kitchen with granite, hardwood floors, great floor plan, finished lower level. Professionally landscaped, mature lot. $339,000. #2807696

Dexter 3760 Crystal Ct. Wonderful custom home with 3,400 sq. ft. + 1,600 sq. ft. walkout lower level, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 1st floor master. Awesome private wooded lot. $595,000. #2808120

Chelsea 13419 Riker Rd. Alluring, custom home built by Tim Powell. 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths includes 1st floor master. Great finishes, walkout lower level with wet bar. Private, wooded 7 acres. Splittable. $895,000. #2802443

Ann Arbor 2977 Trillium Ln. Pristine and loaded with updates. 2,790 sq. ft. open colonial, beautiful new kitchen, wood floors, 1st and 2nd floor master suites, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. 2.75 acre site. $375,000. #2807877

Ann Arbor 2968 Hickory Ln. Ann Arbor Hills updated brick Williamsburg colonial. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 4-season porch. Professionally landscaped, paver patio. Study with bulit-ins. Finished lower level. $785,000. #2807691

Ann Arbor 4934 St. Andrews Ct. Sensational custom 6,600 sq. ft. home great for family living and entertaining. Real limestone, many detailed finishes. Awesome walk-out! Backs to private, wooded site with pond. $1,199,000. #2807223

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Serene Private Setting! $170,000
2 BR. 1400sf plus 800sf in finished walkout lower level. Brick two story will be a beauty! Original Builder's Model needs updating. Bring your decorating ideas!

Stylish Downtown Loft!

Light-filled End Unit! $387,500
Two story ceiling & walls of windows in Great room. 2 BR plus den. 2 baths. 1400sf. SS appliances, granite counters and more. Underground parking.

Old Walnut Heights!

Walk to Downtown! $180,000
Delightful two story set amongst tall pines. 2 BR 2.5 baths plus partially finished basement. Only 11 units in this quaint Ann Arbor condo development.

LOVELY POND VIEWS!

Delightful Two Story!

Adorable & Affordable! $ 97,500
2 BR Family room in basement. Great location close to St Joe/UM hospitals & EMU campus. Very low taxes. Enjoy outdoor pool! Carport. Private fenced patio.

LOW TOWNSHIP TAXES

Upper Ranch with Den!

Cathedral Ceilings! $145,000
Sparkling clean! 2 BR 2 baths Deluxe kitchen w/large bkfast bar. Low fees! Covered deck. Garage Walk to shops & restaurants.

RANCH END UNIT

Gorgeous Open Floor Plan !

Finished Lower Level! $250,000
Cathedral ceiling in Great room. 1582sf plus 800sf in finished LL with three large egress windows. 3 BR 3 baths Saline schools.

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Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

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On the Cover: Serene four-season wooded views from every window in this updated Metcalf-designed five-bedroom, 4,819-square-foot contemporary on two and a half acres in Barton Hills. Architectural presence abounds in the open, spacious rooms trimmed with mahogany. The granite kitchen with eating area overlooks the brick patio, woods, and ravine. Other features include a first-floor master bedroom, a dining room that opens to the deck, new bath fixtures and counters, three new furnaces, updated decor, new air conditioning and roof, and new carpet and light fixtures. 860 Colliston, $1,200,000. Carolyn Knaggs, Charles Reinhart Company Realtors, 734-645-3503. MLS#2805867

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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Grass Lake Stunning 3,500 sq. ft. California VT contemporary on 20 wooded acres. Updated with all the finest: maple kitchen, baths, decor. 3 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3-plus car garage. $379,900. Marcia Shaughnessy 517-812-3834, 517-522-5500. #2801236

Ann Arbor 3060 Bird Song. Impressive new VT home by Elan Designs with panoramic views and window walls. 5,350 sq. ft., 1st floor master, fabulous cherry kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 acre wooded lot. $990,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2807786

Ann Arbor Price Reduction! Only new construction for sale in Ann Arbor Hills. 5,717 sq. ft., 5-6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 1st and 2nd floor masters. Arts & Craft design with exquisite detail. $1,399,000. Susan DeYoung 734-709-5246, 734-669-5951. #2804811

Jackson Exquisite 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 3,138 sq. ft. ranch on 7.57 gorgeous acres. Top-of-the-line amenities in kitchen, finished lower level. Inground pool with patio area, 40x50 pole barn. $549,900. Kelly Parks 517-812-9706, 734-433-2198. #2807608

Ann Arbor A fantastic blend of traditional & modern architecture. Fabulous gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances. 1st floor guest suite. Lovely landscaping. $999,000. Fran Jones 734-994-6505, 734-669-5925. #2715842

Belleville Home flows across 6,400 sq. ft. VT with 100 ft. of frontage on Belleville Lake. Ideal for relaxed and sophisticated entertaining. 1st floor master with 3 additional bedrooms and baths. $1,750,000. Maria Gilbert 734-747-6244, 734-669-5812. #2807572

Ann Arbor Spectacular views from all 3 levels. Granite counters in kitchen with oak floors. Master bath with marble and spa tub. Finished walkout lower level with family room, study or bedroom. $550,000. Fran Jones 734-994-6505, 734-669-5925. #2802948

Ann Arbor Palatial 5,151 sq. ft. brick home VT with additional 2,000 sq. ft. in finished walkout. 3.29 acres, 6 bedrooms, 4F/2H baths. Top-of-the-line, builder's home, Scio Township taxes. $1,200,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909, 734-669-5959. #2806454

Saline 2008 Showcase Home built by VT William Charles Custom Homes. On 7 acres with a pond. Viking kitchen, 1st floor master, full finished walkout. Spectacular finishes. $2,100,000. Susan Niethammer 734-646-6055, 734-669-5995. #2807508

Ann Arbor On 2nd fairway at Travis Pointe Golf Course. One owner, custom 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath brick ranch. Master suite, study, formal dining and living rooms, built-ins galore, finished lower level. $749,900. Sherry Grammatico 734-604-0367, 734-669-5901. #2807267

Ann Arbor An architectural gem with a VT 1930's theme inside and out. Beautiful woodwork, terraced gardens, wisteria arbor and in-ground pool. Minutes from downtown. $1,200,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-769-3800, 734-669-6808. #2806922

Ann Arbor 2525 Country Club. Magnificent VT 7 acre estate with 700 ft. of Huron River frontage. Over 18,000 sq. ft., guest and boat house. Unequaled in quality and location. $5,990,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2807395

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home built in 2006 walking distance to UM Central Campus and UM hospitals. Gorgeous home featuring custom kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances and granite, family room with built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built colonial rests on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting just minutes from town. Incredible features include two-story foyer and family room, custom kitchen with granite counter tops, oversized master suite with dream closet, and finished basement. You will love it! $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – This is not your typical Burns Park home. Gracious 3-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built contemporary overlooking the Park!! You will be amazed at the quality features and incredible design of this truly one-of-a-kind home. Custom kitchen, sun room, and den all have views of the park. Luxury master suite, spacious bedrooms, and finishable third floor. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4½-bath colonial backing to protected common area in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. This home is loaded with quality features and amenities including two-story foyer, den, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK!!! – Rare opportunity, a new home in the heart of Ann Arbor. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home, one block from park. Custom kitchen, granite counters, ample hardwood floors, and luxury master suite with walk-in closet and dream bath. You can still pick your own colors. $619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – Fabulous 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home on one of the best lots in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the #1 and #10 fairways from the spacious deck and sun room. This home is very special. It was built with great care and numerous upgrades. Features include two-story great room, maple kitchen, first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – Incredible 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home with panoramic views of the #4 fairway and pond at Stonebridge. This home is just perfect and features exceptional landscaping and grounds, perfect interior condition, and the best view you will see. Large, open kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counters. Family room with fireplace, luxury master suite, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK WOODS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch overlooking the lake in one of Saline's most desired subs. Incredible lot featuring dense woods, extensive landscaping, deck, patio, and screened porch overlooking the water. Stunning interior with wonderful space throughout. Great room with water view, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been wonderfully expanded and upgraded and rests on one of the most beautiful lots you will find. Enjoy gorgeous views of ponds and common area from the large deck, patio, or all-glass sun room. The interior is beautiful and features a remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, open family room, luxury master suite with new bath, and partially finished basement. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Absolutely stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a quiet, tucked away street on the west side of town. This home has undergone an extreme home make-over in the last 5 years. You will be amazed by the interior quality of this home featuring, remodeled kitchen, spacious family room, oversized sun room, luxury master suite, and incredible backyard. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PLEASANT LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful lakefront settings in Washtenaw County. Enjoy panoramic views of the lake from the this bluff-top setting. Home features many updates including maple kitchen with Corian counters, living room with stone fireplace, and large decks. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK PLACE - This 4-bedroom, 2-½-bath home in one of Saline's most desired subs is just beautiful. Perfect inside and out, features include professional landscaping, huge backyard, gorgeous décor, maple kitchen with granite counters and oversized eating area, open family room with vaulted ceiling, and luxurious master suite with two walk-in closets and dream bath. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR - Dramatic 4-bedroom, 2-bath true contemporary on a private wooded lot just minutes from Gallup Park, U-M, and hospitals. Every room in this home has a wall of glass that brings nature into the home. Features include open great room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, and lower level rec room. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LINCOLN PINES – Super sharp 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home in one of the area's most popular subs. This home is great inside and out featuring extensive landscaping, large deck, and pond view. Interior is gorgeous with two-story great room, open kitchen with hearth room, first-floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. $294,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $255,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $925,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – GLENNBOROUGH – This stately, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the finest lots in the neighborhood. Home has incredible presence set far back from the street with extensive landscaping, flowing stream, and pond frontage. Interior features wonderful contemporary flair with two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, first-floor master suite with sitting room, and finished walk-out basement. $849,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP – Amazing 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home on a spectacular wooded, hilltop setting in Winan's Woods. The quality of features, craftsmanship, thoughtfulness, and décor in this home are unmatched. Stunning home features two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite, luxury master suite, and incredible finished walk-out basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot overlooking the golf course is one of the finest homes you will find. Exceptional in every way this well loved home features a breath-taking two-story great room, custom cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite with dream bath and closet, and finished lower level with wet bar. You will be impressed. $669,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This stunning, custom-built 5-bedroom, 3-full, 2-half bath. Enjoy gorgeous views of golf, a large stream, and nature from this showpiece home. Features include maple kitchen with granite and high end appliances, two-story great room, first-floor master suite with marble bath, and finished walkout basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PHEASANT HOLLOW – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction just minutes to town. Stately stone exterior, great room with vaulted ceiling and built-ins, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and professional grade appliances, luxury first-floor master suite, and screened porch. $659,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Stately 4-bedroom, 2½-bath brick tudor on a gorgeous oversized lot walking distance to UM. This home is fantastic and features large backyard with patio, remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, and family room and master bedroom addition add modern fair This is a great home. $574,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This custom-built 5-bedroom, 3½-baths home is one of the finest on the market today. You will be impressed by the extensive upgrades and professional décor. Gorgeous lot overlooking the pond, custom kitchen with maple cabinets, two-story great room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with home theater and bar. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo rests on the finest lot in Stonebridge. Enjoy panoramic views of the large pond, twin islands, and #17 fairway from the large deck, screened porch, or brick paver patio. Wonderful interior amenities include cherry kitchen, great room with 10 ft. ceiling, den, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $479,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $475,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRASS CREEK – This custom-built home rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will find. Gorgeous acre lot with extensive landscaping, treed backyard, deck, and patio. Interior is sharp with two-story great room, den, open kitchen with granite island, first-floor master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Enjoy golf course living from this 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built home. This home features gorgeous panoramic views of the #14 fairway. Interior includes open family room, kitchen with granite counter tops, spacious master suite, and finished basement with rec room, bar, and bath. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great lot featuring extensive landscaping, deck, patio, and spacious backyard. Interior is freshly painted and features two-story family room, open kitchen, master suite with vaulted ceiling, and finished walkout basement. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home on a quiet tree lined street in Saline. Great lot with trees and extensive landscaping. This attractive colonial features 9' first-floor ceilings, large family room, great formal space, luxury master suite, and finished basement with rec room and bath. You will love it. $314,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo in Stonebridge overlooking the #8 fairway. This unit is gorgeous featuring open living room with 10-ft. ceiling, sun porch overlooking the course, master suite with vaulted ceilings, and finished basement with view out windows. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLE CREEK – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a private .86 acre lot in one of Saline Schools' most popular neighborhoods. Gorgeous lot with extensive landscaping, two-tier deck, and waterfall. Interior features open kitchen with granite counters, spacious family room, master suite with walk-in shower, and finished basement. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $275,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Rock solid 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch in Dicken Elementary features great addition and extensive remodeling. Great cul-de-sac lot featuring fenced backyard and brick paver patio. Interior is gorgeous featuring large living room with hardwood floor, spacious formal dining, flex-use family room/study, master suite with private bath, and finished basement. $274,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on pastoral 6.8 acre parcel just minutes to I-94. Perfect setting with great privacy, large deck, and pole barn. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, formal dining room, large master suite with walk-in closet, and large basement. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on 10 gorgeous acres just minutes to I-94. This is not your typical "cornfield" lot. Enjoy wonderful privacy and views of nature on this mostly wooded site. Home features spacious living room, eat-in kitchen, formal dining, and nice master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLEWOOD FS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $234,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

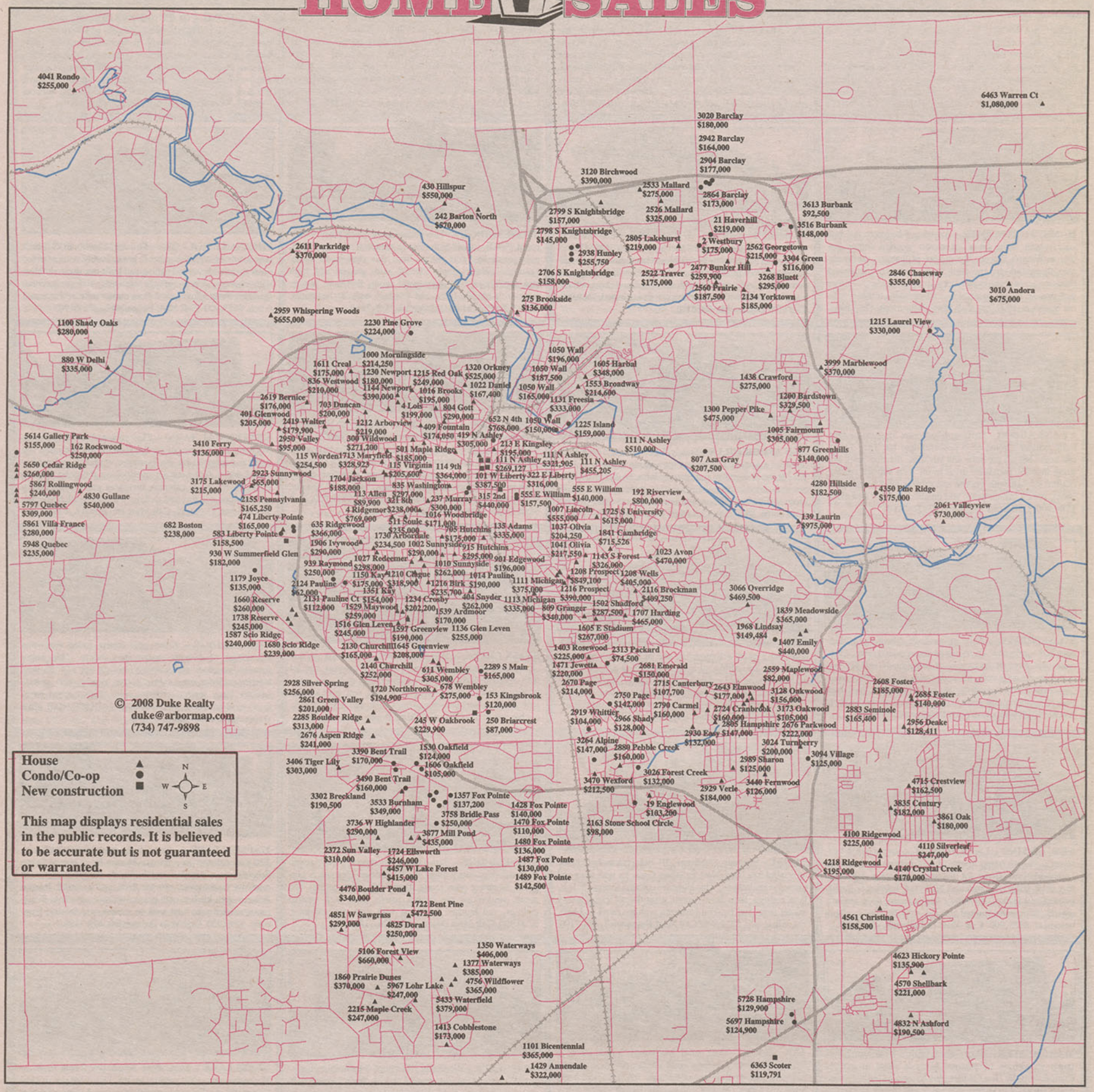
MANCHESTER – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath condo is one of the true hidden gems to discover. Overlooking the Rasin River, you will not find a more dramatic view of nature, trees, and water. The interior is fabulous with numerous upgrades, custom kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $224,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WARNER CREEK – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired subs features extensive renovation inside and out. Wonderful floor plan with open kitchen to family room, large formal rooms, spacious master suite, and big back yard. Updates include new roof, carpet, paint, tile, and bath. You will be impressed. $209,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, lower town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

JUNE 2008

HOME SALES



#	Broker	Houses	Condos	Total	Value
1	Charles Reinhart Company	554	231	785	$233,840,000
2	Edward Surovell Realtors	486	195	681	$196,360,000
3	Real Estate One	270	91	361	$100,840,000
4	Keller Williams	209	111	320	$80,900,000
5	Prudential Snyder & Co.	183	50	233	$63,640,000
6	Coldwell Banker Schweitzer	35	55	90	$18,480,000
7	RE/MAX Platinum	37	18	55	$13,540,000
8	Savarino Properties	23	9	32	$14,020,000
9	Trillium Real Estate	18	8	26	$5,490,000
10	Century 21 Brookshire	18	5	23	$6,660,000
11	Buyer's Agent	18	4	22	$5,320,000
12	Blue Sky Realty	20	1	21	$6,570,000

The start of summer brought home buyers back to the market. One hundred seventy-seven existing single-family homes sold in the Ann Arbor school district in June, compared to an average of 200 June sales over the preceding five years. Existing condos also took a big bounce to sixty-four sales, just ten shy of the five-year average. Declines of 12–13 percent aren't bad at all—the comparison period includes the previous housing boom. But the moody market continued to slam new construction: builders mustered only nine sales—just one-quarter of the five-year average.

Brokers have also struggled during this peevish real estate market, but some more than others. The table at left ranks brokers by number of sales, based on their own reports to the Ann Arbor Area Multiple Listing Service between June 1, 2007, and May 31, 2008. Power brokers Reinhart and Surovell managed to increase sales slightly since our last survey in 2006 (January through December), up 4 percent and 6 percent respectively. But Keller Williams trumped them with 16 percent more sales, and Prudential Snyder parlayed Pfizer's relocation into a 23-percent increase in homes sold. (It's important to note that when two brokers split a commission, both get credit for the sale.)

The shrinking economy squeezed second-tier brokers the hardest. Real Estate One, Coldwell Banker, and RE/MAX saw sales dip 14 percent, 24 percent, and 43 percent respectively. Tough times inspired many agents to switch allegiances, and company mergers are said to be in the offing.

—Kevin Duke

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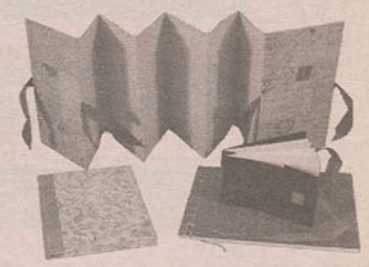

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09/22 Box Making (5 Days)
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09/29 Book Conservation (10 Days)
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10/13 Gold Stamping (2 Evenings)
10/16 Case Binding with Box
10/14 Collage Techniques
10/18 Japanese Style Bookmaking
10/19 Basic Book Repair
10/21 Chinese Calligraphy (2 Evenings)
10/22 Lombardic Lettering (4 Evenings)
10/25 Canvas Book
10/26 Flat Back Photo Album
11/01 Felt & Leather Books (2 Days)
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11/07 Abecedary Book (3 Days)
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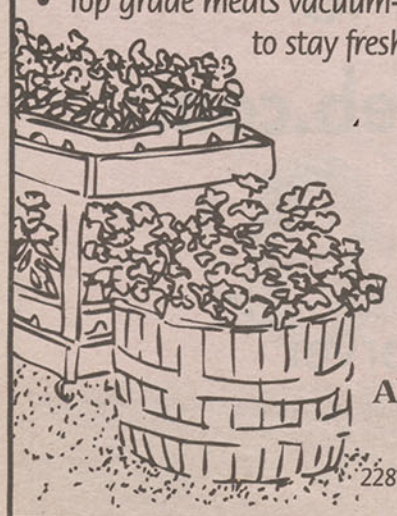

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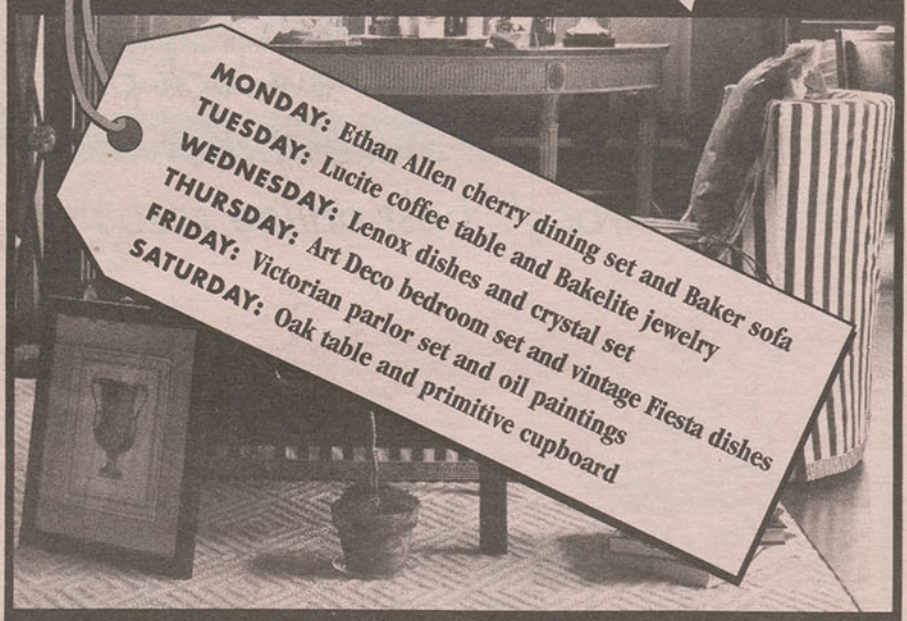
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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

MARK BIALEK

The Sole Sisters shoestore chain comes to Fourth Ave courtesy of Kent and Tamar Fowler. She stocks the store; he does the bookkeeping.

Sole Sisters arrive in Ann Arbor

Sharp shoes from Royal Oak

Sole Sisters, a small Detroit chain of women's shoes that has won a boatload of awards (breathless accolades from WDIV and *Strut* online magazine for starters), has expanded its footprint to Ann Arbor. Nicole Sterling opened the first store in Royal Oak in 2000 and remains the shoe buyer for what is now a four-store chain; Tamar Fowler, once an employee at the Royal Oak store, owns the Ann Arbor franchise.

A few weeks before her anticipated Art Fair opening, Fowler was working amid boxes of shoes and a black and yellow bumblebeeish color scheme in the Fourth Avenue space that used to be Pen in Hand. Fowler, who lives in Belleville, says her husband, Kent, is technically her partner, but gazing on the uncompromisingly girly merchandise, she adds, "He's—uh—a little more with the books, you know."

Sole Sisters sells only women's shoes, along with handbags and jewelry. Fowler herself was wearing a pair of gold-toned quasi-athletic shoes ($62) made by Jump, one of her favorite brands. Sole Sisters carries everything from athletic shoes to pumps, to sandals, to boots, with equally wide-ranging prices—from $49 to over $300. The look is young and perhaps a little more fashion conscious than at most Ann Arbor shoe stores, though Fowler says she's checked out the local boutiques. "I think they have great style," she says. "I just wanted to be a part of it. I think we'll be able to please every woman, eighteen to fifty-eight. . . . Sixty-eight," she quickly amends, looking down the street.

Sole Sisters is one of a growing number of stores that blur some of the traditional lines between merchant and customer, and between business and social networking, by using the "party" scheme. You—the shoe-besotted customer—can have an after-hours shoe party at Sole Sisters. You invite as many friends as you want to a two-hour soiree (either wine and cheese or coffee and cake will be provided gratis), and your friends get 10 percent off any purchases they make during those two hours. You, the party giver, get a 10 percent kickback on anything they purchase.

Fowler takes a stab at that age-old question: What is it about women and shoes? "To me, I like the idea that I can change up a whole outfit just by changing my shoes and accessories. I can make the whole outfit casual or dressy. The trends in fashions change so fast that it's easier just to buy the basic outfit and change your shoes."

Sole Sisters, 207 South Fourth Avenue, 369–4697, shopsolesisters.com. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed Sun.

A breast-feeding business on Brooks

Complete with nursing lounge

Barbara Robertson catches flak for selling breast-feeding supplies. She says it usually boils down to this: if breast-feeding is free, how come you're in business?

But Robertson didn't open the **Breast-feeding Center of Ann Arbor** to push product. An internationally board-certified lactation consultant with a master's degree in education, she wanted a place where new moms could come for professional breast-feeding care and support. "My ser-

MARIA SCHRIBER

Barbara Robertson's Breastfeeding Center of Ann Arbor offers lactation consultation and one of the largest selections of nursing bras in the state.

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vices are first and the retail support is definitely second," Robertson says. "But when you can't find a good nursing bra, I just think that's something you should be able to do."

If that's your goal, Robertson's got you covered; she says you'd have to go to Grand Rapids to find a bigger selection. Most stores that sell bras carry a couple of nursing bras at best, but Robertson carries seven brands of nursing bras in fourteen styles that range in price from $17 to $35 and in size from 32B to 54J. And these aren't your mother's nursing bras. Some are strapless so you can wear them with an off-the-shoulder dress, and others have plunging necklines that are downright daring. There's even a hands-free nursing bra for moms who like to multitask. Another innovation: nursing tank tops, which look like regular tank tops but have concealed flaps over each breast. Ditto the sports nursing bra, which looks like something Brandi Chastain would flaunt on a soccer field, assuming she was nursing between goals.

Other products include breast pumps that run the gamut from small, handheld manual models for $35 to hands-free, double-action electric pumps that go for a couple hundred; books and videos on childbirth and nursing; nursing pillows and stools; and a selection of herbs recommended for helping to increase milk flow, among other things.

The retail section is small and fits neatly into one corner of the room because Robertson keeps only one of each item on display. The rest of her stock is in storage; she knows too many choices can overwhelm new parents. "My goal is to really make it simple," she says. "The only thing I have a ton of choices about are the nursing bras, because I want to be able to fit each mom really well."

Since Robertson and her staff are trained fitters, that's pretty much guaranteed. And if you buy a bra and you need a place to nurse afterward, you can sit right down and make yourself at home on the other side of the room. It's a nursing lounge, furnished with comfy sofas and chairs, and if you want to relax with a cup of tea while you nurse, Robertson will be happy to brew you a soothing cup of Mother's Milk Tea, on the house.

The Breastfeeding Center of Ann Arbor shares office space with the Center for the Childbearing Year and the Doulas Care Program in a light-industrial office building improbably located behind a couple of houses on Brooks Street, in a residential neighborhood. Nevertheless, customers manage to find it: Robertson says a third of her business comes from walk-ins. Jayme Lanker, for example—she and her one-month-old daughter, Anya, are regulars in the nursing lounge. "This my second baby," she says, "and this the first bra I've had that fits."

Breastfeeding Center of Ann Arbor, 722 Brooks, 975–6534, center4cby.com/breastfeeding/center.html. Mon., Fri., & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Everyday Cook's next step

Mary Campbell's life after lunch

"We're not doing lunches," says Mary Campbell of **Everyday Cook,** "but we're not closed." Campbell's anxious to quash rumors that she'd given up on her combination restaurant and cookware store in Kerrytown after losing out on a bargain liquor license last winter.

The kitchen is closed, but only temporarily, and the store is very much open. It's still called Everyday Cook, but Campbell's shifted the emphasis from cookware to wine and bar accessories, entertainmentware, and wine books. The cookware wasn't working out, she says, and the wine and bar accessories are a natural complement to Kerrytown's Everyday Wine, which she also owns.

Campbell is anxious to quash rumors that she'd given up on her combination restaurant and cookware store after being passed over for a bargain liquor license last winter. The kitchen is closed, but only temporarily, and the store is very much open.

Campbell plans to sell carryout lunches and dinners when the kitchen reopens. She's also pursuing a new "developmental" liquor license. "Once the license makes its way through the machinery in Lansing," she emails, "we'll add supper clubs, wine classes, and a wine tasting room featuring picks from Everyday Wines." That's likely to be a ways down the road. Though the city has already approved her application for the license, it could be next spring before the state gets around to granting it.

Everyday Cook, 410 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown Market & Shops), 827–2665, everyday-wines.blogspot.com. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

Rider's RC resurgence

Brent Martin builds a racetrack

Rider's Hobby Shop has moved down the road to 11,000 square feet in the somewhat nondescript plaza on Carpenter anchored by Kroger and Home Depot. "Cavernous" is probably not a description actively sought by most retailers, but owner Brent Martin is gleeful

about the yawning space that occupies the back two-thirds of the store—he's so proud of it that he put in a glass door so you can't miss it. "We want people to see," he says. "There will be something going on in there every day."

A large segment of the hobby market these days is radio-controlled cars and planes. Martin is building a racetrack in back that should be completed by the end of August. There's also space for gaming, and a room for children's parties. Up front, he has twice as much sales space as he did in the small shop he just vacated in Arbor Square at Carpenter and Ellsworth.

Though Martin, an unabashed geek, has owned the business for only two years, he's been working there since 1988 and has been a customer since he was a kid growing up in Chelsea and the store was on Liberty Street in Ann Arbor. "I was a very serious RC [radio-controlled] car racer for a number of years," he explains. "I traveled all around the country racing. It's fun, but they're not toys. These are high-performance pieces of equipment."

He segues into defining the difference between a toy store and a hobby shop: "A toy—you buy it, you play with it, you're done. With a hobby product, you start out and if you like it you progress—you go to higher performance. That's true of all the products we sell." Unfortunately, Martin says, "most people are just exposed to RC products at Christmastime. That's when you see the ads for cheap toys on TV. But those are not real RC cars. They are toys that don't perform very well. They break, and people have to throw them away." All RC products sold at Rider's (brands such as Traxxas, Team Losi, and Team Associated) have replaceable parts and are upgradable.

Unfortunately, Brent Martin says, "most people are just exposed to RC products at Christmastime. That's when you see the ads for cheap toys on TV. But those are not real RC cars. They are toys that don't perform very well. They break, and people have to throw them away."

Rider's fortunes seem to be up again. In its sixty-year history it's had several lives. Originally a pen and stationery store (whose fountain pens, designed and manufactured by Kenneth Rider, are now collectors' items), then a quiet Eisenhower-era downtown model-airplane store, then riding the early RC crest and franchising to at one time sixteen stores in four states, it has retrenched somewhat in recent years. Martin says there are now six Rider's Hobby Shops left, all in Michigan. He owns this one and one in Livonia.

Rider's Hobby Shop, 3140 Carpenter, 971–6116, riders.com. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

Briefly Noted

Astonishingly, **Organic Bliss** just opened in this town that has been known to bill itself as the Berkeley of the East. The small, subterranean store on East Liberty is chock full of bamboo and organic cotton clothing (particularly baby clothes and yogawear), body care products, aromatherapy supplies, candles, and other kinds of items that, while available piecemeal elsewhere, have never yet in Ann Arbor been collected in one space specifically dedicated to the purpose.

"It's not an ideal location, only because it's lower level, but I wanted to be downtown and the rent was reasonable," says owner Melissa Bryant. Her tiny, softly lit, airy shop is in the basement under Afternoon Delight (the recently opened basement also houses Antelope Antiques and Bella Rosie). Bryant was in the mortgage industry for fifteen years and says she "wasn't passionate about it," a claim that won't brook much argument these days. "Once I started to research organic and pure products for myself, I found there is a need to bring completely pure products to the community." She says she does "tons of research. It's what I spend my day doing. Everything here is pure and toxin free. I'm not making any compromises." The vast majority of her products are new to Ann Arbor (she's particularly proud of the John Masters hair care line), though a few skin care lines she carries are duplicated at Whole Foods and Plum Market.

She particularly loves her baby clothes—stopping to coo a minute over a Green Babies ladybug shirt, made of organic cotton with ecofriendly dyes, she says she doesn't even have kids, "which is really weird, but when I did my research, so many searches came up with organic clothes for children. People are starting to be more conscious of it, and they're starting with their kids."

Organic Bliss, 255 East Liberty, 761–3047, organicblissproducts.com. Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Mon.

A hand-drawn sign advertising a new hair salon appeared in the window of **Art-Spoken** in mid-June, right around the time ArtSpoken's sign was scraped off the wall. But owner Gretchen Adracie isn't closing her two-and-a-half-year-old framing and art supply shop. She's subleasing part of the space.

The orange stucco building at Miller and Ashley was built as a gas station in the 1920s. Adracie's renting out the former front office space to Jeanne Adwani's salon while continuing her funky showroom and framing workshop in what used to be garage bays. She still carries an eclectic array of art supplies from brushes, pens, and inks to canvas, sculpting tools, and framing supplies for those who prefer to do it themselves.

Adracie wasn't looking to sublet. Her

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recent flavor boom linked to local produce

Insiders report an explosion of flavor at Zingerman's Roadhouse, where produce just-picked from Cornman Farms in the morning is appearing in many of the seasonal specials highlighted on the menu that very same evening.

James Beard-nominated Chef Alex Young recently told the *Times* agricultural bureau "Cornman Farms started out as a small-scale experiment to see whether I could grow some of the food we serve our guests at the Roadhouse."

"It started mostly with tomatoes," added Chef Young. "At our first Harvest Dinner in 2006, I think we featured 47 tomato varieties."

Since then, things have expanded quite a bit, according to *Times* sources. What started as a garden is now a 6-acre farm with a hoop house, a few tractors, goats, chickens, pigs, sheep and a couple of full-time employees growing fresh heirloom varietal vegetables using time-honored, traditional techniques. (Look for blog posts from the farm at zingermansroadhouse.com.)

Spots are nearly full for the Roadhouse's upcoming special summer harvest dinner on August 19. Call now to reserve seats for the Fall Heirloom Harvest dinner in October (details below).

Fresh foods taste better! *Times* readers get full-flavored produce from local farmers at the Westside Farmers' Market in the Roadhouse parking at Jackson Ave. and Stadium Blvd., every Thursday 3-7 pm.

Fall Heirloom Harvest Dinner 2008

Join Zingerman's Roadhouse to make a meal out of the good stuff coming from Cornman Farms.

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Zingerman's Roadhouse

Bakehouse Pastry Chef Seen at Local Farmers' Market

Eyewitnesses say Zingerman's Pastry Manager (and creator of Zzang! candy bars) Charlie Frank has been hanging around at local farmers' markets, often leaving with a flat of fresh berries in each arm.

"I like making fresh fruit tarts because it reminds me of those hot summer mornings when the aroma of strawberries in the sun filled the air," admits Frank, who first developed a passionate appreciation for local produce growing up in rural Romeo, Michigan.

Fresh fruit is also appearing in the Bakehouse's fresh peach tarts. Insiders say they're made with peaches from the farmers' market and vanilla sugar baked in buttery puff pastry. Try them with a scoop of the Creamery's vanilla gelato!

Exclusive! Zingerman's Gelato Guru Talks to the Times

Reporters recently sat down with Josh Miner from Zingerman's Creamery to ask him about the secret to his exceptional gelato.

"It's no secret," Josh confessed. "For our strawberry gelato, I'm currently using fruit grown by Donald Gibbs in Onondaga, Michigan. He is the same farmer I will be getting raspberries from for sorbet a little later in the season, toward the end of August."

About two pounds of Don's berries go into every tray of Zingerman's gelato, Josh confirmed. The final product is strawberry gelato that really tastes like strawberries, sources tell the *Times*.

Stop for a taste of this rich and refreshing frozen treat at Zingerman's Deli, Roadhouse or Creamery!

local hearts aflutter over hummingbird cake

20% OFF whole cakes & slices at Bakehouse and Deli Next Door thru August

Cake lovers all over town are falling for this traditional Southern conconction of pecans, coconut, fresh bananas, and pineapple covered in cream cheese frosting. Ask for a taste!

new bake! class schedule available now

Registration is currently under way for fall hands-on baking classes at Zingerman's Bakehouse. Course offerings for the semester include favorites such as Ooh La La Croissants and Baking Pies a Plenty, as well as new topics like American cookies and Italian pastries. Sign up now at www.bakewithzing.com.

first time ever!

roaster's pick

Guatemala Ixil Trapichitos highlighted all month long at Zingerman's

Zingerman's Roastmaster Allen Leibowitz is urging *Times* readers to stop in and taste this remarkable hand-picked coffee. "It's the first time we've had coffee from this region at Zingerman's," he enthuses, adding that the Coffee Company is working with the folks in Trapichitos to buy coffee directly from the grower. The cup has a silky body and nice lively brightness on the palate, sources say. Available by the cup, pound or press pot at Zingerman's Deli, Roadhouse and Mail Order.

Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
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ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

Zingerman's is the key to successful summer entertaining, according to star chef, Mario Batali

According to a recent article in the *LA Times*, award-winning celebrity chef Mario Batali confirmed, "When I head out to my Lake Michigan house for the summer, I always stop at Zingerman's in Ann Arbor [Mich.] to pick up essentials for entertaining: Crespone salami, Greek feta, balsamic vinegar, Pedro Jimenez vinegar, eight to 10 kinds of cheeses…"

Times readers are urged to stop by and discover for themselves why Zingerman's Deli is not just a place to pick up favorite sandwiches, but *the* place experts and other food-lovin' folks like to shop for full-flavored specialty items.

Online specials spotted at www.zingermans.com

Zingerman's mail order

Summer sale prices available only through August!

Reports from across the country indicate that many of Zingerman's most popular goods are popping up in pantries from coast to coast. From oatmeal to vinegar to Zingerman's own exclusive blend of olive oil, many of these items are currently being featured at special prices through Zinerman's Mail Order.

Times readers are encouraged to stock up now by visiting **www.zingermans.com** or calling **888.636.8162.**

Zingerman's Bakehouse

August Bread Special! Rustic Italian round

One of the Bakehouse's most versatile, best-selling loaves. It has a beautiful white crumb and a golden brown crust. **$4.50 / 1.5 lb.** (reg. $6.25)

sign was flaking off the stucco and she was prepping the wall to repaint it when Adwani stopped by to admire the architecture and told Adracie she'd like to move in. Adracie knew she'd have to add the name of the salon to the sign, and that swayed her. "We were already scraping the paint off," she says, "so I said okay."

ArtSpoken, 202 Miller, 327–8888. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. & (after siesta) 4:30–6:30 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–3 to 5 p.m. depending on how Adracie's day is going and how nice it is outside.

❧❧❧

Imagine controlling the temperature of your fish tank from the comfort of your easy chair! If that doesn't excite you (or if you don't own fish), how about controlling the temperature of your house, the brightness of your lights, the volume of your music, and the picture on your TV? It's called home automation, and **Paragon Sight and Sound** can make it happen. Says owner Larry Marcus, "From a touch screen . . . we can control everything."

Sales and installation of home automation systems account for a third of Paragon's business. Marcus says the other two-thirds is equally divided between sales and installation of home theaters and "what we growing up in the vinyl age would call two-channel audio." Back then that basically meant a turntable, an amplifier, and a pair of speakers.

Marcus doesn't have a fish tank on display in Paragon's new location on Jackson Road in front of the Quality 16—the store moved from its old place on Ann Arbor–Saline Road in early July—but with a 4,000-square-foot showroom that's double the size of the old one, he'll have plenty of room for everything else he sells, including turntables. "They're coming back in a big way," he reports.

Paragon Sight and Sound, 3780 Jackson Road, 662–3595, paragonsns.com. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sun.

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The Store at Your Door opened in March and was gone by May. But the Christian book and music store didn't close, exactly. Owner Julie Page changed the business's name to Access International Music and moved it into her house. She says that shouldn't be a problem, since most customers never set foot in her shop in the basement of 255 East Liberty; people placed their orders over the phone and Page delivered the product to their door (hence the name of the business). But Page, who also teaches piano and voice, says the long hours were cutting into her teaching time. Plus, she figured a business that mostly delivered didn't need a retail location after all.

Access International Music, 717–6947.

Closings

Ali Hijazi says he knew it was time to close **La Zamaan Cafe** when his ten-year-old son, Hadi, suggested the family move into the basement so they could see more of him. "I just couldn't believe what I heard," Hijazi recalls. "So I said, 'This is it.' "

Hijazi works full time as a Realtor for the Charles Reinhart Company, and La Zamaan, which started as a part-time gig, was turning into a second full-time gig—so he closed his Lebanese restaurant on South State in late June, just ten months after it opened. Hijazi used to own Shahrayar restaurant on Maynard and says he didn't want to make the same mistake twice. "When I had Shahrayar, I didn't spend time with them [his kids] when they were babies," he says. Now, "I owe them some time."

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Anthony's Gourmet Pizza has closed its original location in the Georgetown Mall. When Anthony's opened in 1988, the Georgetown Mall's storefronts were tucked into an asymmetrical, leafy haven of walkways and overhangs, and the mall was a neighborhood magnet, set far enough off the Packard traffic to serve as a quiet node of south central Ann Arbor.

Those walkways and overhangs are still there, but Georgetown Mall has been steadily emptying out for several years, and now they just look sinister. The mall is currently in foreclosure and will be auctioned off July 31 in an effort to settle some of its more than $15 million in debts. Anthony's was one of the last holdouts.

Georgetown Mall has been steadily emptying out for several years. The mall is currently in foreclosure and will be auctioned off July 31 in an effort to settle some of its more than $15 million in debts.

Beth Vlachakis, owner along with her husband, Ted, doesn't dwell on it. Their South Main Market store, which opened last winter, is "only a mile and a half away," she points out. "We're still serving the Burns Park and Georgetown neighborhoods, which have been so faithful." (They cover the west side from a store at Maple and Miller.) Instead of change, she'd prefer to talk about continuity: "We created the original gourmet pizza in 1988. We haven't changed the menu since then. We came up with the eggplant, the zucchini, et cetera, and all of the other pizza places copied us. We don't mind, but we were first."

She's not easily drawn into nostalgic conversations about the old neighborhood, but she says that husband Ted has known all the Georgetown customers by name since 1988. She worries about the elderly neighborhood residents who used to make a day of it at Georgetown: lunch at Anthony's, shopping at Georgetown Gifts, and then trips to the hair salon, drugstore, grocery store, and coin laundry, all on site.

As of this writing there are just two tenants left at Georgetown—and once Bana Salon moves out, Kroger will be the sole survivor.

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Sheelan Fashion, a small shop in Stone Plaza that was perhaps most known for its vast selection of hijabs, closed, perhaps in the middle of June, but it was hard to tell. "Obviously they weren't doing good business," a neighbor says. "They hadn't been open for regular hours in a long time." The store opened last October to an equally rocky start—often closed when, according to the posted hours, it shouldn't have been. Another neighbor shrugged sympathetically and declined to comment.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column featured six new businesses. **Zoom Gallery** on Miller and **Gallery 212** on South Main have since both closed, as has **HobbyTown USA** in Woodland Plaza. Japanese restaurant **Saica** is still open in the Courtyard Shops. **Allstate Darts & Billiards** not only is still open on Washtenaw but has greatly expanded since its original strip mall storefront opened; it's now **Allstate Billiards & Patio Furniture** and has its own free-standing building. The **Cavern Club** on First Street is still open, although owner Nick Easton is looking to retire and has put it and its sister nightclubs up for sale.

August 1998 survival rate: 50 percent

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Five years ago this month, this column reported four openings of restaurants and retail stores. Only one of them—Briarwood's **Satchel Shop**—has closed. The **Quizno's** franchise on Stadium Boulevard near Jackson Road remains open, as do **Schakolad Chocolate Factory** on East Washington and the **Earle Uptown** inside the Bell Tower Hotel on Thayer.

August 2003 survival rate: 75 percent

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One year ago this month, we again covered four new businesses, all of which are celebrating their first anniversaries: **Bar Louie** on East Liberty, **Teriyaki Time** on Detroit Street, **Import Kitchenware and Dollar Plus Store** in Stone Plaza, and west-side boutique grocer **Plum Market.**

August 2007 survival rate: 100 percent

❧❧❧

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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Suggested with Steelhead Red

Grilled Buffalo Burger
Topped with blue cheese and a tomatillo-corn relish, on a toasted onion roll with lettuce and vine ripe tomatoes 11.95
suggested with El Hefe Wheat Beer

Crabcake Burger
Pan-seared crab and fresh sweet corn cake topped with slices of smoked bacon and arugula, served on a toasted challah roll with a spicy mayonnaise 10.95
suggested with Victors' Golden Ale

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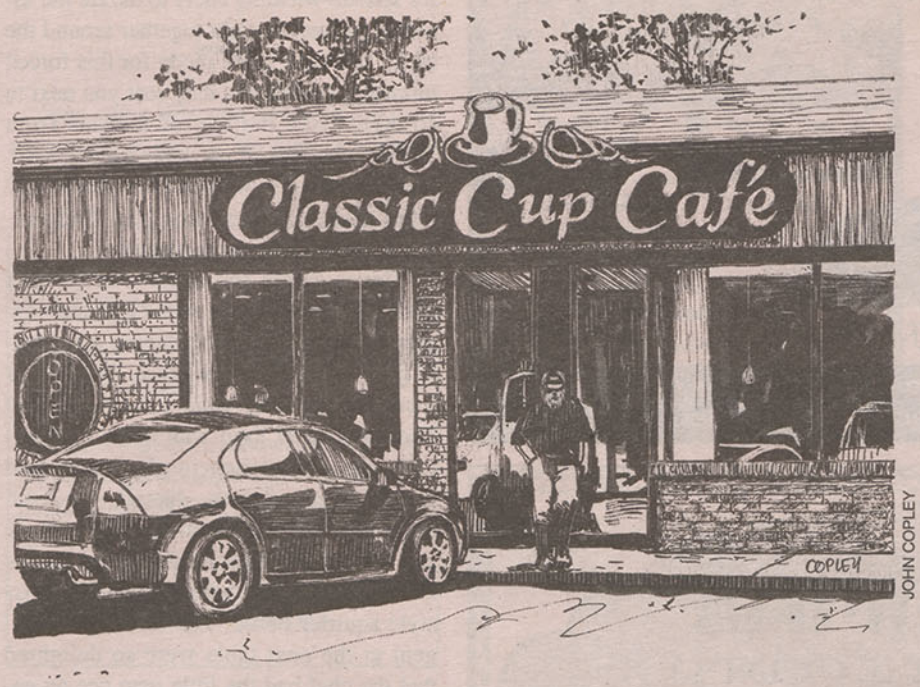
Just what it says



JOHN COPLEY

Sometimes a sandwich is just a sandwich. Not a trip to the subconscious, not a crazy-priced compilation of fabulous ingredients—just an ordinary sandwich, preferably at an everyday price in a decent joint. You will find a solid selection of foursquares along with other similarly straightforward fare in an undemanding setting at Classic Cup Cafe on Jackson Road.

Classic Cup is close to home (for Scioans, literally, and for all, figuratively). It's the kind of place that's just what you need when you don't have the energy for suiting up in fine-dining regalia, when a storm zaps your power, or when you want a bargain breakfast, decent lunch, or painless dinner on the fly.

That's not to diminish it—on the contrary, the Classic Cup is utterly comfortable and altogether easy, and it fills a cozy niche in a neighborhood whose denizens line the parking lot with mom-vans, retireemobiles (including, one evening, a Maserati), and tradesmen's trucks. One or another social group often sits yakking around the table in the private backroom while locals gather in the yellow dining room with its spic-and-span Formica tabletops, deep booths, and incongruously glamorous retro movie posters on the wall.

One of the waitresses clued me in on two important sandwich components: the kitchen cooks its own turkey and corned beef. Any sandwich that includes either of these is a good bet, like the stellar Reuben with the perfect ratio of corned beef, Swiss, kraut, and Russian dressing on grilled rye. Likewise the triple-decker club: thick slices of that roast turkey, crispy bacon, lettuce, tomato, and a dash of mayonnaise assembled on toast, with a pickle spear on the side and a cup of soup as a starter included in the price. I could quibble on those last two—the pickle was soggy, and the minestrone was more like a bean-macaroni stew—but all in all it was a satisfying lunch.

Sandwiches make the list of specials too, like a Monday lunch prime-rib number on a grilled hoagie roll. The half-inch-thick slab of tender roast beef was cut to order, deliciously rosy-pink inside, and surrounded by a rosemary-scented crust, with a slightly salty natural *jus* alongside for dipping. That day's soup was cream of mushroom; it had good flavor but was way too thick.

Keep it simple at breakfast. The classic morning quartet—bacon, eggs, potatoes, toast—was spot on and value packed as one of the specials available until 10 a.m.; I paid a mere $3.50 for two perfect over-easy eggs, three crisply degreased strips of bacon, golden crunchy slices of potato, and whole-wheat toast. But on a packed Father's Day morning we went fancy and ordered the chicken skillet, a kitchen-sink concoction with layered potatoes, eggs, cheeses, chicken, ham, hollandaise sauce, and God knows what else baked in a ceramic skillet. It was dreadful, especially the harshly lemony and oversalted sauce, which had separated. (Why does Dad rate only breakfast on his day while Mom gets dinner out on hers?) Fruit crepes topped with excessively sugary canned strawberry and blueberry topping and filled with a sweet custard were off the mark as well. Cappuccinos are strangely underpowered, like perk coffee with foam on top. Stick with the American-style java at Classic Cup.

On Friday nights, the all-you-can-eat hand-cut, fresh cod in an airy beer batter was very good. The fries alongside have the look of freezer fries—they're not bad, just not as good as hand cut (with anything but fish and chips, I'd recommend the sweet potato fries instead). A sizable portion of the dinner menu is taken up with pasta, including tranquilizing, deeply gooey lasagna—layers of herbed ricotta and ground beef between sheets of pasta topped with a rich tomato sauce and yet more cheese; I'm coming back in the dark days of December for this down-comforter of a dish. Onion rings are hand breaded, splendidly crunchy, and served with a house rémoulade.

Salads are included in the price of an entree and comprise a big bowl of fresh mixed greens along with a choice of dressings, among which the balsamic vinaigrette proved to be a well-balanced blend. Our waitress revealed that the pies and cakes in the dessert case by the cash register are mainly outsourced; given the size of the entrees, they're also unnecessary. A limited selection of beer and wine is available at reasonable prices, although the $5 glass of Chardonnay made my hair ache.

Waitresses (and they are all waitresses) are uniformly funny, sweet, whiz-bang efficient, and reliably candid about the offerings—pointing us, for instance, toward the pasta and away from the fried chicken. Younger waitresses called me "ma'am"; contemporaries called me "hon" or "dear" and took particularly good care of me when I came in alone. This is a classic—like Greek diners, where you never know what you've got till you try it. For everyday yearnings, Classic Cup is a keeper.

Classic Cup Cafe
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Champion House

Turning Japanese

Apparently, the word hasn't entirely gotten out that Champion House is now an all-Japanese restaurant. It came as a surprise to the young couple who were seated next to us—briefly—at the grill counter, before they left in a bit of a huff after they found out they couldn't order Chinese.

We, on the other hand, were lured to Champion House with the promise of its new, more focused approach. The Japanese-Chinese thing always seemed like something of a palate-muddler. Since new owners came in a year and a half ago, the menu has slowly morphed into its current all-Japanese state, and the cavernous main dining room, formerly the locus of Chinese offerings, is sporting a leaner, less dragony look.

The grillroom, always the heart of the restaurant's Japanese persona, is little

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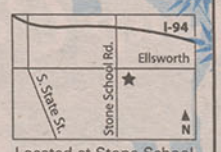

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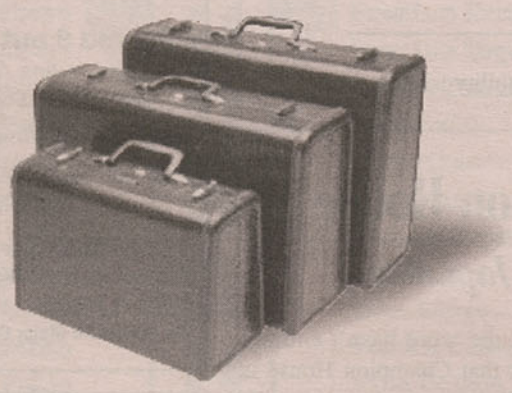
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changed. It remains a showplace, a stage for spatula-wielding chefs to dazzle the assorted patrons brought together around the table. You have to be ready for this forced intimacy; serendipity may seat you next to strangers like the trio of tourists from Toledo who graced our table on one visit, pounding rounds of tropical cocktails. Another time, we were happy to find ourselves dining with acquaintances.

This is dinner and a show, as the chef does his spatula-dance with eggs and veggies and meats on a 450-degree teppanyaki grill inches from your face. (Women of a certain age may want to bring a fan.) There's a lot of dash with those rhythmically tossed kitchen implements. And there's plenty of flash—literally—as with the smiley face drawn on the grill with oil and ignited, the ensuing three-foot flames eventually dowsed with a *Manneken-Pis*-style squirter bottle. The sorority contingent at the next table were so delighted that the chef had the little man pee an encore. My own favorite trick was the miniature Mount Fuji constructed of concentric onion rings that erupted in flames and then evolved into a sultry edifice puffing out wisps of smoke.

The grill theater somewhat overshadows the food. You apply most of the seasonings yourself, using the two dipping sauces on hand—a sweet gingery soy-sauce-based mixture and a "creamy mustard" that suited its name more in color than in flavor. Dinners come with fried or white rice; the fried is a pleasant and light dish done on the grill with egg, chicken, and chopped onion (good-bye, my little volcano).

The best bets are the fillet and lobster. The six-ounce fillet was cooked somewhat beyond medium rare, but even diced into bite-size bits, it was tender and juicy on the plate. A small lobster was steamed in a split shell and sliced and diced with a fast sear on the hot surface before being plated. Beef teriyaki was marred by a too-sweet sauce. Scallops were a disappointment, especially after being talked up both by the Toledoans and by our waiter. The shellfish appeared to be cut in two horizontally and lightly dusted with flour. The thin rounds lacked flavor, and the flour tended to burn on the grill, leaving a bitter crust. I loved the way the gorgeous calamari steak was cooked—it was wonderfully tender—but it desperately needed a more forceful sauce. The mixed veggies—vertical slices of zucchini, chopped onion, and mushrooms—retained their full flavor with the quick sauté and may have been the best part of the meal, after the show and the company.

Though no longer multinational, Champion House still sports two menus—one for the grill side, and one composed of dishes prepared in the back kitchen or at the sushi bar. In contrast to the grill chefs, the cooks in the back let loose with the seasonings. The Champion House signature maki, for instance, is a fusion extravaganza that takes a Philadelphia roll filled with rice, salmon, and cream cheese; deep-fries it tempura style; garnishes it with hot sauce and ringlets of jalapeño; and plates it on a ceramic fish around a mound of bright green wakame seaweed. Interesting, but one piece sufficed. The gyoza dumplings were light, crisp, drizzled with a nutty oil, and sprinkled with thin slices of green onion and a few chili flakes. While expertly constructed and tasty, some maki—notably the shrimp tempura and spider rolls—were just too big and cumbersome. The best of the lot was the "dragon," a tight California roll covered with grilled eel.

JOHN COPLEY

I'd be more eager to try the raw-fish offerings if the dining room were busier. One thing you want to see in trying a new sushi place is lots of turnover, and although the grill gets busy at dinnertime, we were one of two occupied tables in the large main room on a Saturday night. Our server, who was covering both sides, described a typical workday as "an hour and a half of running around and ten hours of twiddling your thumbs."

Nevertheless, service was generally good, and one of the new owners, Hai Phan, is on hand to enthusiastically greet guests and keep the show running smoothly. Champion House is moving in the right direction with its all-Japanese menu; now it just needs to perfect it.

Champion House
120 East Liberty **741–8100**
championhouse.biz

Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 5–10 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 5–10:30 p.m., Sat. noon–10:30 pm., Sun. noon–9:30 p.m.

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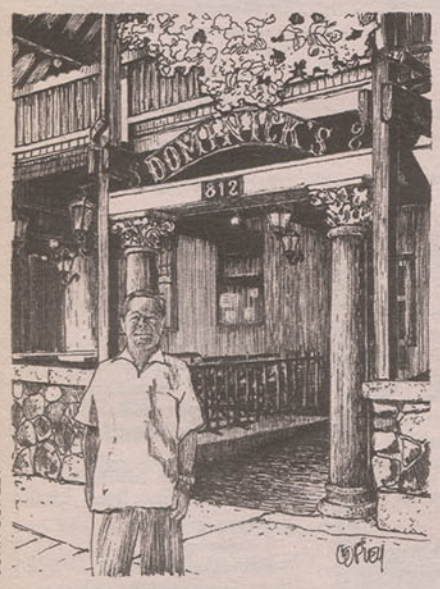
Quick Bites

O glorious space, why are you burdened with such lousy food? This is the lament of the beautiful and ephemeral **Dominick's,** whose handcrafted visual charm eclipses

that of just about any other outdoor space in town. It's a Bavarian *Biergarten*, a hippie hideout, a Provençal patio, an art-house theater that comes alive in spring and has the good sense to go away in winter. It began life as a quirky residence built in the 1930s, was reborn as Dominick's in 1960, and remains in the same family after forty-eight years.

This eccentric middle-aged beauty has managed to hold on to her integrity. I'm guessing things here are the way they are because they're funny or appealing or because they've always been that way, not because they'll increase appetite or get the customers cycling through or whatever current restaurant-industry design research says. Nope, it's shade trees and long picnic-style tables, an off-limits gazebo, a stone wall inset with a gravestone. There's a gurgling fountain, above which is, surprise, the boy who gets around more than Amélie's dad's garden gnome, *Manneken-Pis,* this time turning his hose on the shallow pool, no doubt aiming for that big green frog. On Tuesday nights at 7, at least through mid-August, they screen documentaries upstairs. Admission is free.

Victuals are self serve: order and pay at the front counter and wait for your name to be called. Tableware is minimalist; drinks are served in Mason jars. My first lunch brought me face to face with a



JOHN COPLEY

chicken Parmesan sandwich—a rubbery breast fillet doused in red sauce and covered in lots of indistinguishable cheese on a soft white commercial-kitchen bun. I must have just chosen badly, I thought, really badly. I'll give it another try. Next time I asked the counterman, "What's your favorite?" The Italian sandwich he suggested layered decent hard salami on a hoagie roll with melted cheese, shredded lettuce, and Italian dressing. It was, alas, soggy with oil, dripping with the stuff. A six-inch pizza went heavy on the crust and light on seasoning with canned-style black olives and mushroomlike slices on top. I had started with visions of working through the menu—which is mostly Italian American, with a little Mexican and even some Vietnamese—until I found the best items, but after that pizza, I gave up.

Still, we were so entranced by the setting, and by the giant fox squirrels sauntering boldly around the patio carefully shelling and relishing their peanuts, that we whiled away an afternoon. Food, it seems, does not have to be the raison d'être of every restaurant. A place to savor tradition, summer, and friends—sometimes that's enough.

—Bix Engels

❧❧❧

Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

Dominick's
812 Monroe **662–5414**

Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Closed Sun.
Closed Nov.-Mar.

Snacks $1–$13.55, sandwiches $6.15–$9.50, soups & salads $3.95–$7.90, pizza $7.40–$12.95, pasta dinners $8.40–$11.95

Ramp for disabled access

table talk

Call it the **Main Street chef shuffle.** In May, after six years at the **Chop House,** Brandon Johns moved over to **Vinology.** He's now executive chef there, and part owner with Kristin Jonna and family (the Jonnas parted company with Greg Lobdell and Jon Carlson's Mission Management earlier this year). Johns has put together a new menu focusing on organic, seasonal, sustainable, and locally sourced food. Sous chef Lauren Bridges was previously at **Zingerman's Roadhouse.**

Johns is succeeded at the Chop House stove by sous chef Jeffrey Bliven. Bliven, a Schoolcraft culinary arts grad who comes from a family of chefs, has been with Mainstreet Ventures since he was seventeen; he says he aims to make sure "the product is used properly."

Mélange sushi chef Sam Ness, who was responsible for the menu makeover I liked so much last year, moved to Chen Chow Brasserie in Birmingham—which, like Mélange, is a creation of designer John Janviriya—only to leave Chen Chow within a few weeks of its opening in November. California Culinary Academy–trained John Iverson now leads the Mélange kitchen, which just brought out its summer menu.

Janviriya's new Ann Arbor venture, the **Black Pearl,** was supposed to launch in the fall of 2007 in the Main Street space once occupied by Subway. Billed as a seafood and martini bar, the Black Pearl appears to be back on track to open this summer, with Chen Chow executive chef Robert Courser creating the menu and chef de cuisine Gabriel Geyman in charge of day-to-day operations in Black Pearl's kitchen. General manager Michael Hole began hiring dining room staff in July.

—B.E.

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i spy

by Sally Bjork

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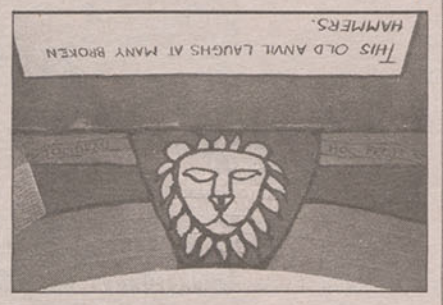
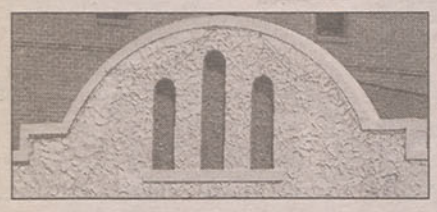


To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"This building is the old Hunter Brothers gas station on the northwest corner of Huron and First Street," wrote Leroy Pratt. According to local historian Grace Shackman, the quaint 1926 building was built when gas station owners were trying to blend into their neighborhoods. Entrant Cendra Lynn recalled that



in the 1960s the owner deliberately displayed the oil company name backwards: Flug. "Gulf took an extremely dim view of his sense of humor," she wrote.

Kathy Peterson remembered a later incarnation as "a flower shop where flats of annuals . . . beautified Huron Street." Cendra Lynn added that "this building now gives hands-on service: massage." "RelaxStation," summed up Ginny Archer, "is still a good place to stop if one is running out of gas."

We received forty-five correct entries; the winner of our random drawing, Marcia Ticknor, will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

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This must be a sign of troubled times. Our July winner, Sue DeMars, is taking her gift certificate to United Bank & Trust. Either she's planning to turn it into cold, hard cash or she wants to buy a whole lot of those paper tubes for rolling up pennies. Either way, this can't be good.

DeMars's entry was one of 175 we received correctly identifying the July Fake Ad (p. 70) for the Only $1.25! Discount Store. "There's something deeply ironic about a discount store that has to raise its prices," wrote Siri Gottlieb. "Whoever thought this one up has been reading his Camus."

Sadly, that's not true. The Fake Ad Czar was assigned a book by Camus in his high school French class, but it turned out—to his horror!—to be in French. The book, whatever it was called, will always remain a stranger to him.

"My wife is a native, and she introduced me to the whole Fake Ad thing last summer," wrote Kevin Keiser. "Well, I got all excited this time, and I searched . . . for two or three days. Not being from around here, I kept thinking certain things were outlandish that, in this area, apparently are not (I'm from Kansas).

"Suddenly my wife . . . said, 'A dollar-twenty-five store?' . . . The first thing I saw was 'in Ann Arbor. We buy . . .' [concealing the clue *arborweb*]. I said, 'That's it! You found it, you little twit!' " We'll assume, for the sake of the relationship, that Keiser was talking to himself.

To enter, identify the August Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Monday, August 11, will be eligible for the August drawings.

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in August. See p. 37 for daily events listings and a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Nightspots, and Events reviews. Events marked with an asterisk (*) are listed in Nightspots, which begins on p. 59.

Classical & Religious Music

- St. Francis Catholic Church Summer Organ Series, every Mon.
- U-M music school carillon concerts, every Mon.
- American Romanian Festival Players chamber ensemble, Aug. 23
- Classical guitarist Matthew Ardizzone, Aug. 24

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- *Del McCoury Band (bluegrass), Aug. 1
- *Mustard's Retreat (singer-songwriters), Aug. 2
- *The (Lo-Tech) Watusies (rock 'n' roll), Aug. 2
- *Goldmine Pickers (bluegrass fusion), Aug. 3
- Tim Flood (avant-jazz), Aug. 4
- *Todd Snider (singer-songwriter), Aug. 4
- *Harry & the Potters (garage-punk), Aug. 5
- *Scythian (Celtic fusion), Aug. 5
- *Ruthie Foster (singer-songwriter), Aug. 7
- Roger McGuinn & John Sebastian (folk-rock), Aug. 8
- *RFD Boys (bluegrass), Aug. 8
- *Hieroglyphics (hip-hop), Aug. 8
- *Daisy May & Seth Bernard (singer-songwriters), Aug. 9
- *The Tarbox Ramblers (blues), Aug. 10
- *Mountain Stage Newsong Contest (singer-songwriters), Aug. 11
- Reiman Bishop Flood Godston Quartet (jazz), Aug. 12
- *Harry Manx (singer-songwriter), Aug. 13
- *Ginn Sisters (Americana), Aug. 14
- *Bill Bynum & Co (country singer-songwriter), Aug. 15
- *Lonesome County (bluegrass), Aug. 16
- *Antje Duvekot (singer-songwriter), Aug. 17
- *Grievous Angel (country-rock), Aug. 19
- *The Greencards (bluegrass), Aug. 20
- Frank Pahl's Little Bang Theory (avant-folk), Aug. 21
- *Raul Malo (country), Aug. 21 & 22
- Tumbao Bravo (Cuban jazz), Aug. 22
- *The Iguanas (New Orleans), Aug. 23
- *Back Forty (folk-rock), Aug. 24
- *Nicole Reynolds (singer-songwriter) and Women in Docs (folk-rock), Aug. 26
- *Tony Furtado (singer-songwriter), Aug. 27
- *Amy Speace & the Tearjerks (alt-country), Aug. 28
- Kevin Meisel & Naomi Anest (folk-rock singer-songwriters), Aug. 29
- Laz Slomovits & Friends (singer-songwriter), Aug. 30

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- *Jerry Harmon (Appalachian), Aug. 12
- *Pierre Bensusan (folk guitar), Aug. 25

Lectures & Readings

- Fiction writer Danit Brown, Aug. 6
- Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Aug. 7

The Adventures of Nate the Great

People Dancing's Fascinating Rhythm

Little Bang Theory

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Children's Creative Center), Aug. 13–16
- *The Adventures of Nate the Great* (Junior Theater), Aug. 21–24

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Honk!* (Dexter Community Players), Aug. 1 & 2
- *Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid* (Purple Rose Theatre Company), Aug. 1–3, 5, 7–10, 13–17, 20–24, & 26–30
- *Shakespeare Variations Revisited* (Brass Tacks Ensemble), Aug. 7–9
- *The Day Everything Went Wrong* (Performance Network), Aug. 7–10, 14–17, 21–24, & 28–31
- *Fascinating Rhythm* (People Dancing), Aug. 14–16

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea "Sounds & Sights," every Thurs.
- Crossroads Summer Festival, every Fri.
- Dixboro Fair, Aug. 2
- Riverfolk Music & Arts Festival, Aug. 2
- Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club Exotic Bird Exhibition, Aug. 3
- Milan Bluegrass Festival with Rhonda Vincent, Doyle Lawson, & others, Aug. 7–9
- Dexter Daze, Aug. 8 & 9
- Saline Summerfest, Aug. 8 & 9
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 15–17
- Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour, Aug. 17
- Chelsea Community Fair, Aug. 19–23
- Kerrytown "Nash Bash" with Dana Cooper and Whit Hill, Aug. 21

Miscellaneous

- Primary Election, Aug. 5

Playful performers take the stage in August: People Dancing's *Fascinating Rhythm* (August 14–16), Little Bang Theory (August 21), and the Ann Arbor Junior Theater's *The Adventures of Nate the Great* (August 21–24).

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Ryan Belleville, Aug. 1 & 2
- Comic Jeff Havens, Aug. 8 & 9
- Performance artist Andrea Askowitz, Aug. 14
- Comic John Sneed, Aug. 15 & 16
- Comic Bill Maher, Aug. 15
- Comic Billy West, Aug. 21–23
- Comic Gary Conrad, Aug. 28–30

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Pirate Week Paddle," Aug. 18–22

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Saturday, October 18
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Saturday, November 1
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